

Protesters demand freedom for prisoners

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinians Monday protested here against Israeli detention of thousands of Palestinian prisoners and demanded their immediate release. The 70 protesters in front of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission also demanded the repatriation of nearly 2,000 Palestinians expelled from their homes since the 1967 war. The protest is the second within a week and signals a mounting campaign by Palestinian activists for the return of the expelled and the release of an estimated 6,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails. About 4,000 Palestinian prisoners have been freed since Israel granted the Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May. Israel, which has promised to release 5,000 prisoners, is demanding that the detainees, especially those opposed to the self-rule deal, sign an undertaking in support of the PLO-Israeli peace accord. In Monday's peaceful protest, men and women carried the Palestinian flag and portraits of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and leaders of dissident Palestinian factions.

Volume 18 Number 5653

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1994, MUHARRAM 26, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Vatican envoy due here Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran is due in Amman Friday on an official visit to Jordan, the first by a Vatican foreign minister to the Kingdom. Mr. Tauran is scheduled to meet with Jordanian officials including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan during his three-day stay in the country. Jordan and the Vatican last March announced the establishment of diplomatic relations but have not yet exchanged ambassadors.

Hamas man dies of gunshot wounds

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Palestinian died overnight of gunshot wounds sustained when he tried to stab a Jewish settler in April, hospital doctors said. Ahmad Al Kedra, 18, and another member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas attacked a settler at the Gaza town of Khan Yunis. His comrade was also shot dead. The latest death brought to 1,278 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Iran, Arabs 'back Philippines group'

MANILA (AP) — Military intelligence officers believe Iranian and Arab nationals are financing extremist group holding a Roman Catholic priest hostage, a newspaper reported Monday. The Philippine Star quoted unidentified intelligence sources as saying a group of Iranians and Arabs was financing the Moro Youth Solidarity Organisation, founded by Abu Bakar Janjalani. Mr. Janjalani is the leader of the Abu Sayyaf group, which kidnapped Rev. Cirilo Nacorda last month along with about 50 others. The group killed 15 Christian hostages but freed the rest except for the priest after receiving 200,000 pesos (\$7,700) ransom. Military operations last month on southern Basilan Island failed to free the priest. The newspaper said immigration officials have been asked by the military to investigate the foreigners, believed to be living in Zamboanga city about 900 kilometres south of Manila.

U.S. boosts Kuwait firepower

KUWAIT (AP) — The United States is boosting its firepower in Kuwait to help defend the emirate and enhance Washington's military capabilities in the region, U.S. officials said. "We will effectively triple what we've got on the ground," ambassador Ryan Crocker told reporters as a first commitment including 15 M1A1 Tanks, 12 armoured vehicles and three M109 155-mm artillery guns was offloaded at Shuaiba port. The equipment was shipped from U.S. base in Germany. The second commitment is expected to deliver the remainder of the military equipment from the United States within the next few months. U.S. officials said the exact amount of equipment being brought to Kuwait was classified. Even though the U.S. led a multinational coalition in driving Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war, Kuwait has signed a 10-year defence pact with Washington, as well as military agreements with Britain, France and Russia, since the end of the war to bolster its security. Another one with China is expected by the end of the year.

Bebeto saves 10-man Brazil

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Brazil, who had left-back Leonardo sent off a minute from half time, beat the United States 1-0 with a 73rd minute goal from Bebeto here Monday. They play Holland in the World Cup quarterfinals at Dallas Saturday. Leonardo was shown the red card for elbowing Tab Ramos in the face.



Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأسي

North says Mukalla stormed as Yemen sees fresh truce shattered

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN ARTILLERY and rocket batteries Monday pounded the southern stronghold of Aden, killing 32 people and wounding 75, reports said.

The shelling came despite a ceasefire unilaterally announced by southern forces to go into effect at midnight Aden time (2000 GMT Sunday). It never took hold.

Northern authorities had not announced whether they intended to honour the truce call, the ninth so far in the two-month-old Yemen civil war.

Diplomats in Sanaa confirmed a Kuwaiti agency's report that Aden was still under fire. A Northern official said northern forces entered the port city of Mukalla where breakaway southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh is based.

"Government forces entered Mukalla following violent fighting with the secessionists" from the south, the official said on condition of anonymity.

There was no immediate independent or southern confirmation. Northern forces occupied part of Mukalla's port before moving into other areas of the city, the official said.

He said troops were

attempting "to control the whole of Mukalla's port, which is used to supply arms to the (southern) secessionists."

Mr. Beidh moved his base there soon after war broke out on May 5 between his forces and the northern forces of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"Large quantities of weapons were seized and a large number of secessionists were taken prisoner, or gave themselves up to government forces," the official added.

The airport at Rihyan, 35 kilometres east of Mukalla, was still under southern control, he said.

Mukalla, 700 kilometres east Aden, is the second largest city in the south and the capital of the Hadramawt province. A southern military spokesman said Sunday that fierce clashes took place in the Hadramawt region during the evening.

Hundreds of people are believed to have been killed since northern forces began besieging Aden early in the war.

Northern forces are now entrenched on the northern edge of Dar Saad, a southern-held Aden suburb, marking a four-kilometre advance since Thursday.

On Saturday, northern shelling of Aden suburbs killed

led 35 people, including 13 children, according to hospital statistics, reported the Kuwaiti agency, which is monitored in Bahrain.

Major underwriters hiked their war-risk insurance charges for vessels docking at all Yemeni ports, the weekly Middle East Economic Survey newsletter reported.

Oil tankers docking at Aden refinery now are being assessed premiums of between 2.5 per cent and five per cent of the value of their cargo, up from the old rates of between 0.75 per cent and one per cent.

Both sides increasingly are targeting each other's major economic targets, including oil fields, refineries, and power and water stations.

Hostilities erupted May 4 following months of feuding between President Saleh and Mr. Beidh.

The casualty toll, which did not include soldiers or people receiving medical care on the spot, was the largest daily toll of the war, hospital officials said.

Intense bombardments began at dawn with the collapse of the seventh ceasefire in the war, and became even heavier in the afternoon. Shells, Katyusha rockets and missiles slammed into all Aden's suburbs and city cen-

(Continued on page 12)

Rabin clashes with Netanyahu over Arafat, defeats motion

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli legislators traded charges of incitement on Monday during an emotionally charged no-confidence debate over Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to the autonomous Palestinian territories.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of "verbal hooliganism."

Mr. Rabin had accused the right wing of "teaming up with Islamic fundamentalists" to torpedo the peace process after an anti-Arafat demonstration Saturday night turned violent.

"I'll say it again: The opposition is celebrating over the blood of the dead," Mr. Rabin said before the four-hour debate in parliament. "I won't take it back."

The government defeated the no-confidence motion 56-48.

The opposition, led by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party, opposes Mr. Arafat's visit to the newly autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho area because of his admitted goal of a full state with Jerusalem as its capital. They also accuse him of still backing "terror."

Mr. Arafat made his historic return to the Gaza Strip on Friday and was expected in Jericho, the seat of the new Palestinian government, on Tuesday.

Mr. Rabin said the government's commitment to a "united Jerusalem" was unshakable.

The Israeli army, under Mr. Rabin's command, seized Jerusalem's eastern sector in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel has "annexed" east Jerusalem and ringed it with Jewish neighbourhoods, making a clean division all but impossible.

But most countries, includ-

ing the United States, reject Israel's claim of the unified city as its capital and have their embassies in Tel Aviv.

The opposition came under fire because some 3,000 protesters — out of tens of thousands at Saturday night's rally — rampaged through Arab neighbourhoods in and around Jerusalem's City, destroying property.

The rioting came after right wing leaders like Mr. Netanyahu told demonstrators to block roads around the city.

Demonstrators had shouted out "Rabin is a traitor" and "death to Arafat," and the speakers made no attempt to quiet them.

Mr. Netanyahu described the vandals as being on the "margin of the margins of the right wing" and said their actions were not as bad as Mr. Rabin's "verbal hooliganism" towards the right.

Mr. Rabin then walked out of the plenum.

Israeli jets attack Hizbollah after fatal ground assault

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli jets attacked a Lebanese resistance base Monday following a ground assault by the Hizbollah group that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded two, security sources said.

Two fighter-bombers thrashed Jabal Al Rafih, a key redoubt of Hizbollah guerrillas facing an enclave Israeli occupies in South Lebanon, in two rocket-firing runs, according to the sources.

Flames and smoke shrouded the hilltop target as both jets roared back south, releasing red heat balloons to deflect surface-to-air missiles, the sources said.

There was no word of casualties from the 10-minute raid. Up to 59 people have been killed and 217 wounded in the previous 25 Israeli air strikes in Lebanon this year.

The new raid came after Hizbollah guerrillas sneaked into the enclave's northeastern edge and blasted Israeli and surrogate South Lebanon

Army (SLA) positions along the triangle of Sojod Ghizlan and Aramta with rocket-propelled grenades.

That triggered artillery and rocket duels with Israeli troops and SLA militiamen along the eastern sector of the enclave Israel calls a "security zone."

The attackers pulled back an hour later under cover of Katyusha rockets unleashed on the village of Rihan, about nine kilometres from the triangle, said the sources.

They added that two barracks, one used by the Israeli army and the other by SLA militiamen, were hit in Rihan, where several houses sustained considerable damage.

Israeli and SLA positions struck back with Howitzer barrages on a cluster of villages straddling the zone's eastern sector. The sources said the bombardment spread in the afternoon to villages facing the central sector.

Officials with the U.N. peacekeeping force in South

Lebanon counted more than 250 Katyushas and Howitzer rounds crashing on both sides of the battle front during the exchanges.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack that kindled Monday's hostilities.

A Hizbollah communiqué said a "commando unit from our special forces" stormed the Israeli army barracks in Rihan and inflicted "dozens of enemy casualties."

It said four Israeli Merkava tanks and other military equipment were destroyed, but the security sources could not verify this claim.

The attack came a day after the antenna of an Israeli armoured personnel carrier hit a high-voltage power cable in the zone, fatally electrocuting two Israeli soldiers.

Three others were injured, two of them seriously. Israeli forces and the Hizbollah guerrillas have been on a war-footing since Israeli warplanes killed up to 50 people on a Hizbollah camp in eastern Lebanon on June 2.



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, on Monday visits the Armed Forces General Headquarters (GHQ), where he held

a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafiz Miral and his assistants on issues related to the Armed Forces (Armed Forces photo)

Arafat to fly to Jericho under Israeli escort and tight security

Combined agency dispatches

YASSER ARAFAT will visit the self-rule enclave of Jericho with an Israeli helicopter escort on Tuesday to press his claim for Palestinian control over the rest of the occupied West Bank.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, whose precise travel plans are still secret for security reasons, will fly to the Jordan Valley oasis from the Gaza Strip, where he arrived last Friday from 27 years of exile.

Mr. Arafat is flying to avoid travelling 130 kilometres along Israeli roads from Gaza to Jericho.

"An Israeli helicopter will accompany the president's helicopter from the take off location in Gaza to the landing location in Jericho," police chief Major General Haj Ismail Jaber told reporters.

Another helicopter could carry officials. The helicopters, which came from Egypt on Monday, flew to Jericho the same day to inspect the site. The two Egyptian helicopters are to be used for shuttling between the two self-rule areas.

Israeli troops sealed off Jericho against Jewish settlers on Monday to prepare for Mr. Arafat's trip to the town.

Jews, who demonstrated violently in Jerusalem after Mr. Arafat's return, vowed fresh protests when the PLO leader arrives in Jericho, his foothold in the West Bank and officially the capital of the self-rule areas.

"There will be a range of new protests, all kinds," settler spokesman Aharon Domb said. Demonstrators hurled stones, smashed shop windows and damaged cars in East Jerusalem on Saturday.

Mr. Arafat delayed by a day his trip from Gaza to Jericho near the Dead Sea. Officials cited the need for

better security against Jewish settlers, who oppose the September 1993 PLO-Israeli accord establishing self-rule areas.

Settlers refused to confirm or deny a Maariv newspaper report which quoted an unidentified senior Israeli police officer as saying they planned to seize the Orient House, the PLO's political headquarters in Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials in Jericho said they met with Israeli West Bank commander Ilan Biran on Monday and agreed his troops would keep out Jewish settlers. All Israelis except reporters were turned back at roadblocks.

Palestinian police planned to bar entry of private cars to Jericho from 7 p.m. on Monday (1600 GMT) to avoid traffic jams, using buses to bring West Bank Arabs to the ceremonies.

Mr. Arafat's two bullet-proof black Mercedes limousines were moved to Jericho and a headquarters, whose location was unknown to the public, was readied for his short stay.

He has a meeting on Wednesday in Paris with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Palestinian workers were building a stage, flags were raised on walls and trees for Tuesday's swearing-in of members of the new administration for the self-rule areas.

Water tankers were parked nearby in the world's lowest town whose location 258 metres below sea level contributes to summer heat where 40 C (104 F) is common.

Jericho, labelled the oldest town in the world with a known history exceeding 10,000 years, is to serve as administrative centre for the new self-rule authority of Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Arafat aide Nabil Shaath, who negotiated the self-rule accord, said that when Mr. Arafat returns on

Saturday from his talks in Paris he would take up permanent residence in Gaza.

"Gaza is a reality and Jericho is a symbol," he told reporters in Gaza, which has a population of up to a million. "People don't live with symbols, they live with people and the people are here."

"To solidify that symbol, he is making that swearing-in ceremony in Jericho, which is a symbolic town. It is a symbol of continuity between the West Bank and Gaza."

Mr. Arafat presided on

Monday at a meeting of his Palestinian self-rule authority in a building in Gaza where the Israeli military governor once ran the lives of thousands of Gazans.

Until May, the Gaza central prison, "The Palace" as it is known from the days of Egyptian administration before the 1967 Israeli occupation, was a place of fear. Now it serves as government offices.

Mr. Arafat met with all sections of the new Palesti-

(Continued on page 12)



Palestinian police arrest a man carrying a gun in front of the headquarters of the security forces in Gaza City on Monday during a visit there by Yasser Arafat (see page 8) (AFP photo)

Deal reportedly near on Iraqi oil pipeline

NICOSIA (R) — An agreement is expected at the U.N. in the next few weeks allowing the flushing of Iraq's corroding crude oil pipeline through Turkey, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said on Monday.

"An agreement in principle has been reached (between Turkey and Iraq). Details are now being hammered out and an accord is expected within the next few weeks," the newsletter said.

Reports from the United Nations on June 29 said negotiations were being pursued but that obstacles still remained in the pursuit of a technical resolution that would permit the Iraqi-Turkish transaction, designed to protect the pipeline.

Exports through the 985-kilometre pipeline have been banned since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

MEES said that under the draft resolution now being discussed Ankara would keep the United Nations advised on the volume and quality of the oil being pumped but there would be no international monitoring. The oil would flow at 150,000 barrels per day over six months and would be consumed in Turkey.

The resolution would also ensure equitable distribution throughout Iraq of humanitarian supplies to be obtained in return for the oil, though not necessarily through permanent on-the-ground su-

pervision of the supplies.

The proposed deal has pressured the oil market, since the Iraqi oil would displace other crude now imported by Turkey.

A fire caused by a weekend bomb attack on the idle crude oil pipeline by rebel Kurds in southeast Turkey was put out, an oil official said in Turkey on Monday.

"The fire was not big and it was put out shortly after it broke out," a spokeswoman from state pipeline firm Botas said.

She said damage on the pipeline, attacked by the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas near Midyat, about 40 kilometres from the Iraqi border, was

minor.

The PKK has hit the pipeline several times this year. An Iraqi dissident on Monday called for the United Nations to lift sanctions against Iraq because he said they were helping to prop up President Saddam Hussein's government.

"Faleh" Abdul Jabbar, a dissident journalist living in Britain, spoke at a London news conference to launch a book, "Iraq Since the Cold War," written by prominent Iraqi opposition figures.

"Sanctions have made (Iraqi) people think the West is punishing them. They need to be lifted because they are helping Saddam to stay in power," Al Jabbar told Reuters in an interview.

Gaza's cheering for Arafat tempered by doubts of future

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

GAZA — The crowd was fraying at the edges even before Yasser Arafat had finished speaking.

Gazans gave a respectful but less than ecstatic welcome to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman returning after a 27-year absence.

They have been buoyed before by waves of nationalist promises only to sink deeper into the despair of exile amid the sand-blown alleys of colourless refugee camps.

They cheered the man who for many is still the symbol of the Palestinian struggle to regain a homeland.

But they also wondered whether he could make good on pledges to build peace and prosperity on the ruins of Israel's quarter-century occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The suddenness of Mr. Arafat's off-delayed gave little time to decorate the cement-grey streets of Gaza city.

There were no flag marches or street parties. None of the wide-eyed surprise that greeted the announcement of the PLO's deal on limited self-rule with Israel last September, none of the joyous relief that accompanied the replacement of Israeli soldiers by Palestinian police in May.

"People have learned a lesson that high expectations are usually followed by a letdown and disillusionment," psychiatrist Mustafa Al Masri said. "They are trying to protect them-

selves," he told Reuters. Dr. Masri, one of a team of doctors helping Gazans cope with the mental problems spawned by the occupation, said the subdued mood was not just psychological.

"It's physical too. People are asking about building the future, about the roads, sewers. The mood is more realistic than before."

"People are saying, 'Arafat is here but we still have prisoners.' They are asking more penetrating questions. Those who fought in the intifada are wondering what role they will have with the new leadership," Dr. Masri said.

Those around Mr. Arafat when he made his first address in Gaza on Friday, say they sensed the tension and fears simmering below the surface.

But they were surprised at the turnout. They had feared that Gaza, a stronghold of Islamic opposition to the PLO-Israeli deal, would have given Mr. Arafat a more grudging welcome.

The way the people came out to greet Arafat although there were no preparations was a referendum in itself. It is much more than I expected," said Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, under-secretary of the Palestinian authority which will run the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

Reuters reporters estimated the crowd between 10,000 and 20,000 people — not a huge gathering by the standards of this densely-populated, narrow strip of Mediterranean coastline.

Many who showed up said they were there as much out of curiosity as enthusiasm to see the man who has been

dubbed "Mr. Palestine."

"Everybody is here, that's why I came," said mechanic Yousef Daoud with a shrug.

"Our rights have been compromised. We are the ones who put the first stone in the building of this state," he said of the agreement which gives Palestinians only limited control of their lives.

"I wanted to see my brother before seeing Abu Ammar (Arafat)," added Hassan Al Khadi. "If he had freed the prisoners and then come back that would have been fine, but what good did he do to us?" she asked.

Mr. Arafat's aides are aware of such feelings. "Those who greet us today are going to be asking tomorrow: 'What are you going to do for us?'" said one aide.

That is why Arafat has tried to strike a realistic note in his statements since arriving, telling Palestinians they may have to go hungry to rebuild their shattered economy.

Opponents of the deal, sensing his discomfort, are biding their time.

"The opposition will give Arafat this opportunity and let the people judge for themselves whether this experiment works, which it won't," said Ataf Adwan, a political science professor at Gaza's Islamic University.

If that happens Dr. Masri fears he will have more patients.

"Depression comes not in the storm but with the calm after it," he said. "Soon people will be looking for concrete evidence of improvement in their lives, but that won't materialise immediately."



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is accompanied by bodyguards and security officers as he visits Ansar, a former Israeli prison in Gaza City on Monday (AFP photo)

Monumental task awaits Arafat in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat's first ventures out into his self-rule areas have provided a stark insight into the size of the task he faces.

"I will be the first person to go and clean up Gaza City by myself," Mr. Arafat said Sunday after another triumphant drive round.

He was talking to senior officers and "ministers," urging them to get stuck in and set an example to all.

Not a single sector of the economy, infrastructure or social services could even charitably be described as developed.

He has now ridden over the pot-holed roads and the dirt tracks of the centre of Gaza City, even if it was in a big Mercedes.

He has driven past the piles of stinking rubbish, despite a major attempt to clean up.

He has been into the dilapidated Jabalya refugee camp where several generations crowded into little hovels.

Not surprisingly, he has launched a rallying cry to "build the Palestinian state" and warned "our very

survival is at stake."

With unemployment estimated at more than 50 per cent in the Gaza Strip the main themes of his speeches and meetings have been economic.

And he has voiced anger at the World Bank for delaying the supply of the hundreds of millions of dollars he needs to begin to build.

Only \$47.5 million out of the \$720 million promised for this year has reached the Palestinians so far as the bank continues to demand strict accounting procedures, which Mr. Arafat refuses.

The same World Bank, in an assessment of infrastructure and services in the occupied territories, repeatedly resorted to the label "highly inadequate."

Roads — deteriorated to the point where without immediate rehabilitation past investments may be completely lost.

Water — average urban consumption 60 litres per capita a day compared with 230 for Egypt.

Electricity — consumption about 680 kilowatt-hours per

capita a year compared with 1,055 in Jordan. Nearly 140 villages without mains supply. Suppressed peak demand 30-50 per cent. Half the Gaza Strip can not or will not pay bills.

Educational facilities — in need of major repair and seriously under-funded. Universities are too small and the whole system fragmented between Egyptian system based in Gaza and Jordanian on the West Bank.

Health services — in need of repair.

Waste disposal — raises serious health and environmental concerns, often just dumped outside municipal boundaries.

Even where the coverage of services is fairly high, as in urban areas, the quality was often very poor, the bank's study found.

"Reconstruction and development is the most important issue," Mr. Arafat stressed Sunday when he opened Gaza's first citrus fruit processing factory on Sunday.

"We are concentrating on building our infrastructure. This is the first step for us."

The plant is a sign of hope, but also a symbol of the lack of development.

The citrus tree can be considered the one and perhaps only natural resource in Gaza, but with fruit prices rock bottom, many farmers do not even bother to pick them.

Fruit juice, however, is a booming market.

Mr. Arafat, after urging self-reliance and admitting he returned home with empty pockets, turned to Western countries Saturday night in a bid to get some quick aid money.

"He warned us that the euphoria would not last long," said Belgium's consul-general from Jerusalem after diplomats met the PLO chief.

Mr. Arafat pressed them for cash, and quickly.

According to Mr. Arafat's finance "minister", Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, investment of \$400 million a year will create 25,000 jobs.

"Given the start of a stable military and political situation, who also expect private investment of \$600 million a year," he said.

Saudi royalty faces slavery lawsuit

A LAWSUIT in Houston, Texas, accusing the Saudi Arabian government and members of the Saudi royal family of conspiring to lure women from the Third World into domestic slavery, may be behind the defection of the Saudi Vice-Consul in Houston who sought political asylum in Britain on Wednesday. Ahmed Zahran, who has accused the Saudi government of human rights violations, is the second Saudi diplomat to defect this month. Salif Salifu, his solicitor in London, said yesterday (June 30) that the Home Office had agreed to an urgent interview, in a safe place, within the next 48 hours to consider the application of Mr. Zahran, now in hiding.

The Houston lawsuit against the Saudi government stems from the case of two female domestic servants who accused Prince Saad Bin Abdul-Aziz al-Saud, the late brother of King Fahd, of enslaving them at Houston's Ritz-Carlton hotel.

Josephine Aliog, 37, from the Philippines and Sryani Marian Fernando, 35, from Sri Lanka, say Prince Saad and his wife, Princess Noora,

forced them to work and abused them until they escaped from the hotel in 1991. The Prince was staying at the hotel while undergoing treatment for cancer. The women and their lawyer allege that Saudi Arabia is part of an international conspiracy to recruit women from Third World countries for slavery.

King Fahd himself was originally named in the suit, but a federal judge dismissed him from the suit earlier after the State Department said a foreign head of state was immune from civil actions — The Times of London.

Foreign Office officials said yesterday (June 30) they were not concerned about Mr. Zahran, a relatively low-level diplomat. But the position of Mohammad Mas'ari was far more sensitive and a serious problem for the Saudi authorities.

His asylum request would put the British government, with lucrative trade and arms contracts in mind, in an embarrassing position.

Ben Laden supporters reportedly go to London

A SAUDI opposition group which supports Osama Ben Laden, one of the most prominent and controversial promoters of Islamic radicalism in the Muslim world, is on its way to London.

Ben Laden, who lives in Sudan at present, comes from one of the wealthiest families in Saudi Arabia. During the Afghan war, he organised and paid for thousands of Arabs to join the jihad. One group he supported, headed by a Palestinian religious figure, Sheikh Azam, included a number of those found guilty last month of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York.

Last month, the Saudi authorities took the unprecedented step of stripping him of his Saudi citizenship. Ben Laden's supporters, who call their group the Advisory and Reformation Committee, join a growing

group of Saudi opposition figures based in London. Earlier this week, another Saudi diplomat, Ahmed Zahran, the former second secretary in the Houston consulate, claimed asylum. And several months ago, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, headed by a former physics lecturer, Dr. Mohamed Mas'ari, arrived to spearhead his campaign for freedom of speech, democracy and judicial reforms.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian group claims attack on march

ALGIERS (AP) — A violent group claimed responsibility for an attack on an opposition party's march that left one person dead and more than 60 injured. The armed Islamic Group, which has also targeted foreigners, intellectuals and other civilians, said it launched the attack Wednesday against "laics and enemies of the faith." In its weekly Al Ansar bulletin, the group said the march was "led by the chiefs of miscreancy, apostasy and hypocrisy." The march by about 15,000 people was interrupted when a gunman lobbed two bombs or grenades into the crowd and sprayed gunfire. The government said one person died and 63 others were wounded. Among those suffering shrapnel wounds were feminist leader Khalida Messaoudi and three members of a French TV crew. The march commemorated the second anniversary of the assassination of reformist President Mohammed Boudiaf and to demand the "truth" behind his killing. It was organised by a recently formed group called the Movement for the Republic, opposed to both the army-backed government and the fundamentalist insurgents fighting to topple it. About 4,000 people have been killed in the two-year conflict. The attack was believed to be aimed at Said Sadi, a prominent political figure heading the movement.

Israel against Chinese arms sales to Iran, Iraq

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's military chief urged Chinese officials Sunday to avoid weapon sales to Iran and Iraq. Chief of Staff Ehud Barak told army radio that he met with Chinese officials in Beijing and said Israel views grately the arms exports to Iran and Iraq "to obtain non-conventional weapons and ground-to-ground missiles from irresponsible governments with far-reaching intentions." Israel is concerned that China could sell long-range missiles to Iran and Iraq that would be capable of threatening the Jewish state. During the Gulf war, Iraq launched 39 Scud missiles at Israel, killing two people and damaging dozens of homes.

Qadhafi meets wife of missing opponent

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi met the wife of a political opponent who disappeared in Egypt in 1993, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday. Col. Qadhafi "received a message from Bahaa Al Omari, wife of Mansour Kikhia, after having received by him during a visit to Libya," JANA said, without giving the date of the meeting. Mrs. Kikhia's message thanked Col. Qadhafi for his "hospitality" and added: "I hope your sincere efforts will end in success" — a possible reference to attempts to discover the fate of her husband. Mansour Kikhia was a leader of the Democratic National Assembly, one of the biggest opposition parties in Libya. He disappeared on Dec. 11, 1993, in Cairo where he was attending a meeting of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights. Mrs. Kikhia, who lives in Paris, said in January there was no actual proof her husband was kidnapped by Libyan authorities, though she said Col. Qadhafi had been "indignant" at her husband's attempts to "unify the ranks of Libyan opposition."

France charges 10 Turks with extortion

PARIS (AP) — France has charged 10 Turkish rebels fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey, officials said. Charges filed Saturday against the suspects also included attempted extortion, criminal association and relations with a terrorist organisation, said judicial officials on customary anonymity. The 10, ranging from 22 to 38 years old, were arrested Wednesday in the southwestern city of Toulouse. They were charged and ordered held by Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere in Paris. Mr. Bruguiere said the group coerced or tried to force other Turkish nationalists in Toulouse and in the Paris area into giving money for the Kurdish Labour Party. A victim and witnesses helped to identify the suspects, officials said. Known by the initials PKK, the Kurdistan party has been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

12 dead, 62 wounded in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — By Kabul's standards, the shelling Sunday and Monday was not particularly heavy, but the toll has still been high: 14 killed and 62 wounded.

The forces of the renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fired about 150 rockets into the city over the two days, with most of them landing in civilian neighbourhoods, according to the president's army.

It issued the casualty toll after visiting hospitals in the shattered capital.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces recently pushed back his rival from the southern and eastern edges of the city, but it has not curtailed Mr. Hekmatyar's ability to shell the city.

Ben Laden supporters reportedly go to London

A SAUDI opposition group which supports Osama Ben Laden, one of the most prominent and controversial promoters of Islamic radicalism in the Muslim world, is on its way to London.

Ben Laden, who lives in Sudan at present, comes from one of the wealthiest families in Saudi Arabia. During the Afghan war, he organised and paid for thousands of Arabs to join the jihad. One group he supported, headed by a Palestinian religious figure, Sheikh Azam, included a number of those found guilty last month of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York.

Last month, the Saudi authorities took the unprecedented step of stripping him of his Saudi citizenship. Ben Laden's supporters, who call their group the Advisory and Reformation Committee, join a growing

group of Saudi opposition figures based in London. Earlier this week, another Saudi diplomat, Ahmed Zahran, the former second secretary in the Houston consulate, claimed asylum. And several months ago, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, headed by a former physics lecturer, Dr. Mohamed Mas'ari, arrived to spearhead his campaign for freedom of speech, democracy and judicial reforms.

Foreign Office officials said yesterday (June 30) they were not concerned about Mr. Zahran, a relatively low-level diplomat. But the position of Mohammad Mas'ari was far more sensitive and a serious problem for the Saudi authorities.

His asylum request would put the British government, with lucrative trade and arms contracts in mind, in an embarrassing position.

Ben Laden supporters reportedly go to London

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Envoys Special
18:30 News in French
18:45 Granada Galop
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 World Cup Soccer Match
21:30 News in English
22:30 World Cup Soccer Match

PRAYER TIMES

6:34 Fajr
6:59 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40 Dhuhr
16:28 'Asr
19:29 Maghrib
21:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63703
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 60851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with winds north-westerly active. In Amman, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 21/31
Aqaba 25/40
Daham 17/34
Jordan Valley 23/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Teyyan 620115
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916
Dr. Ismail Ismail 794460
First pharmacy 651912
Fendous pharmacy 787336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636790
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IREB:
Dr. Akram Momani (-)
Alkade pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Al Hajj 984344
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Department 601111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 844002
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Ambulance Municipality 787111
Complaints 665100
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 723111
Radio Jordan 764111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Melha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisli 6641714
Shmeisli Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Masbar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612377
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 665100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
IREB:
Prince Baqa Hospital (02)77555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72222
Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
Pharos Haya Hospital (03)14111

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:18 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
08:30 Amman (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00 Madrid (RJ)
17:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:40 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:28 Vienna (OS)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Athens, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)

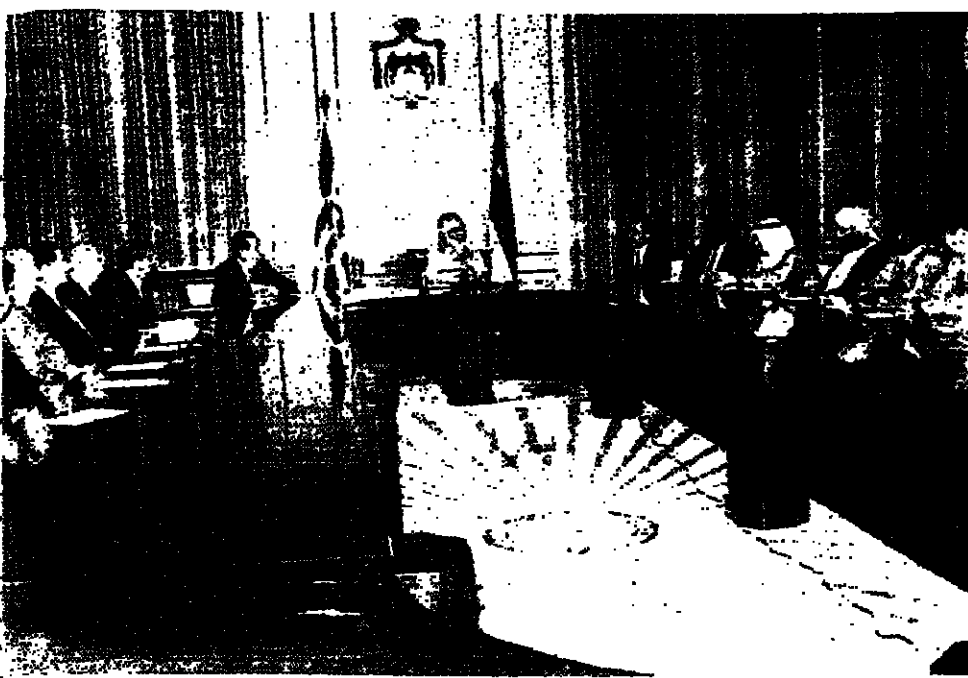
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 530/500
Apricots 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 150/90
Cauliflower 249/160
Coke 1300/800
Custard 140/80
Cucumbers (large) 80/40
Cucumbers (small) 150/80
Eggplant 150/70
Fig 500/350
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 600/400
Lemon 450/350
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 160/80
Mushrooms 110/50
Okra 700/500
Onion (dry) 350/250
Pepper (hot) 350/250
Pepper (sweet) 300/250
Potato 550/350
Peaches 120/60
String beans 450/320
Watermelon 100/50



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives heads of delegations to an FAO regional conference in Amman (Petra photo)

King receives FAO chief

Regional conference hears report on agricultural situation in area

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court the director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Jacques Diouf, and the heads of the delegations attending the FAO conference in Amman. King Hussein thanked Dr. Diouf and his associates for their efforts, wishing their meeting every success.

The King Sunday praised FAO for what he said was its unique role in promoting the march of economic development in the Middle East region in an address delivered on his behalf by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri.

The convening of this conference in Amman reflects the determination of the countries of the region and FAO to maintain the strongest possible ties of cooperation, said the King. Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif spoke on behalf of the delegates, voicing their appreciation of the hospitality and facilities accorded them to ensure a successful conference.

Also Monday, Dr. Diouf said he was satisfied with the level of cooperation between the U.N. organisation and Jordan.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Hassan, Dr. Diouf said Jordan had set an example for other countries in the region in terms of its

cooperation with the world organisation and its various agencies.

Mr. Hassan outlined the current situation in the Kingdom, which, he said, has been shouldering a heavy burden of development over the past few decades while playing a leading role in establishing stability in the region.

The minister said Jordan hopes that peace in the area will be linked closely to economic and social security as well as development, stressing that such a linkage would ensure sustainable development under the umbrella of peace.

At a meeting with Information Minister Jawad Anani, Dr. Diouf discussed FAO's activities in the countries of the Near East.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. Anani said he was briefed by Dr. Diouf on the organisation's interests in and plans for helping the countries of the region build an infrastructure for agricultural development and developing water resources for this purpose.

According to Dr. Diouf, FAO plans to help these countries, including Jordan, construct dams and launch irrigation projects to promote farming and increase food production, said Dr. Anani.

Dr. Diouf has also suggested a Marshall Plan for the Near East and other developing nations to help them im-

plement sustainable economic development schemes.

Dr. Diouf Sunday attended the opening of a five-day FAO sponsored conference in Amman and delivered a keynote address tackling various aspects of the organisation's plans to help promote food production in the Near East region.

The conference went into its second day Monday with a report from the FAO secretariat that reviewed the present agricultural situation in dry areas and FAO's efforts to remove obstacles to their reclamation and agricultural development.

According to the report, rain-fed areas cultivated in the countries of the region increased no more than 68 per cent of the total area of arable lands until 1990.

The report also said a total of 80 million hectares are being exploited up from 62 million in 1980, but production of cereals and dairy products fell far below the levels required to meet the needs of the growing population.

According to the report, between 1983 and 1988 countries of the Near East imported \$19 billion worth of food from other countries.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference submitted a request to open a FAO regional office in Jordan to serve countries in the Western Asia region. The request won the support of most of the delegates to the meeting.

Meeting opens to urge product quality

Quality products are the right of all consumers — minister

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is the right of every consumer to expect quality, and providing quality products is a collective responsibility by which balanced products development counts in fulfilling consumers' needs, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at the opening of a three-day conference on the quality of products, Dr. Khalaf said the new dimension of mass responsibility is not only an understanding of the product's quality and its validity, nor is it simply a specialised understanding of the relationship between the producer and the consumer, but this responsibility also sets technology guidelines which determine the types of products that would meet consumer demands.

"I say this because the producer aims at fulfilling the public's specific needs and the consumer's reac-

tion to the product determines its validity," Dr. Khalaf said, addressing experts from German, Swiss, Dutch, Egyptian, and Jordanian universities and research centres.

Dr. Khalaf stressed the importance of product quality, which she said is the way to penetrate new markets and expand existing international markets.

In addition, Dr. Khalaf told the participants that the government will monitor the results of the meeting carefully and work to support its recommendations.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh addressed the gathering of about 60 specialists and officials, saying the recognition of the importance of product quality prompted the university to introduce courses on quality control measures and systems.

"We have set up new laboratories on campus to examine product quality based on established local requirements and specifica-

tions," Dr. Gharaibeh said.

He said variations in standards of living and the increases in the cost of living "should prompt us to deal with issue in an organised manner and to form a strategy to protect consumers financially and environmentally."

Today, technological advancements affect different aspects of life, and therefore "providing a balance between environmental protection and advancement is essential," he added.

Bashir Zoubi, a professor of business administration and the conference rapporteur, also addressed the participants saying a large responsibility falls on the media which has the most important role in educating and creating consumer awareness.

"The media can act as the monitor of manufacturers who produce products that could (intentionally or unintentionally) harm the consumer and the environment," he said.

He pointed to the urgent

need to supply the public with safe food and medicine, as well as a healthy environment.

"This will be accomplished if new laws are enforced to protect the public," he added.

Dr. Zoubi called for such laws to be implemented, adding that this topic is a priority of the three-day conference.

The conference, which was organised by the University of Jordan and the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, in cooperation with the Legal Institute of Communication of the University of Coimbra in Portugal, was designed to discuss the quality of products with regard to consumer and environmental policies: legal aspects and practical actions.

The working papers to be reviewed by participants cover a general overview of instruments, promoting the quality and safety of products with regard to consumer and environmental protection, import-export of dangerous products,

control and enforcement systems, standardisation and certification processes, and consumer education.

The meeting was prepared in conjunction with European universities under a special programme financed by the European Union (EU).

The conference will also discuss ways of orienting consumers on selecting commodities and contributing to safeguarding the environment from pollution with the help of the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society (JCPS).

Today's discussions will focus on products and environmental liability aspects, as well as on insurance systems.

On the final day, the meeting will discuss the exchange of information systems, and the education and information of the consumer. It will close with a round table discussion entitled: "Is there a market for environmentally safe products globally and nationally?"

Queen reviews pediatric health programme

with visiting Arab-American medical group

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with a delegation of the Medical Society of Arab-Americans to review the benefits and achievements of their visit to Jordan, which was organised in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services.

In the meeting, Queen Noor thanked the delegation for their dedicated efforts and concern to assist the children of Jordan and the region, of which they are descendants. The Queen stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between Jordanian physicians and their colleagues in the United States, as well as of exchanging expertise to benefit Jordan and the region, with emphasis on pediatrics and special health care.

The delegation's visit is a culmination of previous efforts by Queen Noor and members of the medical society who sought to contribute their expertise to sponsoring handicapped children from Jordan for treatment in the U.S.

In 1989, the society, in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services and Jordan University's Medical Centre provided assistance to handicapped Jordanian children in the U.S.

Last year, the Queen re-examined the possibility of conducting the same project at the national level. It was recommended that the medical specialists from the U.S. come to Jordan to assist local doctors with special children's cases.

The visiting delegation includes a surgical and prosthetic team to assist Jordanian doctors in the planning and executing of therapeutic modalities to children with congenital or acquired limb deformities.

The group visited the Al Hussein Medical Centre, the Royal Rehabilitation Centre and Jordan University and performed several operations with the help of their Jordanian counterparts.

The delegation was also invited by the Palestine Health Council to visit the occupied territories where



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday meets Society of Arab-Americans (Photo by George Crystal)

they will help in the organisation of health care delivery and provide a link between Palestinian physicians and Israeli medical centres.

Also attending the meeting were Minister of Health Aref Batayneh and Director of the Royal Medical Services Yousef Qussous.

Later Monday, Queen Noor, met with a national research team that is currently undertaking a study on the "Profile of the Status of Children Prior to Schooling and the Learning Environments in Schools."

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of implementing a feasi-

ble process for systematic and periodic examination of children at a very important time of change in their lives, entering school.

The meeting also examined the formation of a children's task-force that would advocate the welfare of children and ensure that their needs are put before policy-makers.

In the meeting, the Queen and members of the nascent task-force stressed the need to coordinate information gathering efforts, and to cooperate with other similar bodies with such expertise in the region.

Queen Noor also emphasised the importance of using

the gathered in developing practical programmes that cater to the needs of a group of children, especially those with special needs.

The Queen added that the children's task-force should not only be research-oriented, but should rather implement field programme that yield positive outcomes and accountable benefits in both the short and the long run.

In conclusion, Queen Noor stressed that such efforts should be continually extended to monitor and evaluate the development of children over a period of time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism council appoints new member

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Mohammad Adwan Monday announced the appointment of Nazih Dabbas, general manager of Alia Gateway Hotel, to membership on Jordan's Higher Council on Tourism.

Qatari: Sheikh offers computer to college

AMMAN (Petra) — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani, brother of the emir of Qatar, has offered to supply computers to the Karak government community college. The offer came in a letter from Sheikh Mohammad to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "A Moment of Sincerity" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

TV5 PROGRAMME

★ Programme entitled "Planete Musique" transmitted by TV5 Europe Station at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert (including Jojo's variations, Copland's Rodeo and Brahms' Symphony No. 4 at the Philadelphia Hotel, Royal Ballroom at 8:00 p.m.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

★ ABC News Highlights and MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Gloria Tannouri at Philadelphia Hotel (Tel. 607100).

★ Exhibition of Palestinian national heritage at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by artist Khalidoun Abdul Razzaq at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artist Raja' Abu Ghazaleh entitled "Heritage and Faces" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist Fakhr Farzat at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition by plastic artist Khairi Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'un at Darat Al Fnuun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

The fleeting tangibility of Sakher Farzat's works

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Sakher Farzat works to construct a dialogue in his work between poetry and painting, and from this explosive marriage is born works both pure and precious," writes one French critic in advocating the work of the Syrian artist.

Very strong words of praise indeed, but nonetheless the viewer of this veteran artist's paintings will observe that Mr. Farzat certainly lacks neither talent nor vision in his work, and his masterful handling of the abstract style sets his art above and beyond many similar works by others which have been previously exhibited in Amman.

Pressing one's nose into Mr. Farzat's painting to observe the minutiae of his strokes and textures, one will see no more than a dense jumble of dots and strokes, hodgepoded over each other.

But if a viewer collects himself/herself and stands back a few metres or so, what he will begin to comprehend what Mr. Farzat has achieved, as colours and swirls of paint blend and merge to produce light and harmony and depth. It is as if one were look-



A painting by Sakher Farzat

ing through the prism of a stained-glass window in a church or the lens of a kaleidoscope, into another world of greater meaning, which can be touched on for a second or two, but nonetheless remains unreachable and incomprehensible.

If Mr. Farzat has actually managed to combine painting and poetry, as his French supporter so grandly claims, is debatable. But even the toughest critic must concede that his paintings on display in Amman do manage to break a window into that purer other world of naked light,

colour and shape which all abstract artists seek so laboriously to reach.

And if Mr. Farzat's abstracts have not yet quite arrived at their destination, if indeed any artist can reach that dimension, he has managed to touch it where so many have failed.

Mr. Farzat, 51, was born in Banias, Syria. He was a professor at the Faculty of Arts and Architecture at the University of Damascus before he moved to Paris in 1977, where he currently lives.

The exhibition at Baladna, which opened on July 2nd, lasts until July 10.

'UNRWA move to Gaza should reinforce services to refugees'

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Mohammad Thweib Monday voiced Jordan's hope that the relocation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) head offices from Vienna to Gaza would reinforce the agency's services to the Palestine refugees in all its fields of operations.

The minister, who made the statement during a tour of refugee camps around Amman, said the government was spending nearly JD 55 million annually on various services to the refugees.

He said the government was keen on providing services and care to all citizens regardless of their origin as directed by his Majesty King Hussein.

During a visit to Al Hussein Camp, Mr. Thweib heard demands from local residents for the improvement of municipal services.

Speaking in the presence of Lower House of Parliament deputies Abdul Aziz Jaber and Hammad Abu Jamous, the head of the services committee in the camp requested that the government assign a plot of land nearby the camp where street vendors could market their merchandise, and asked that walls be built around the cemetery which is located near the camp.

The minister also visited Prince Hassan Camp where he inspected services to the residents and heard demands for more roads, a post office and more doctors at the local clinic.

Mr. Thweib visited Wahdat Camp on the outskirts of Amman and met with prominent citizens, who requested that the government asphalt the roads of the camp, remove the street vendors and rid the central camp area of garbage containers.

Accompanied by several officials from the Department of Palestinian Affairs and the Amman Municipality, Mr. Thweib inspected services at the camp.

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FOR ANNUAL RENT

A spacious apartment situated in one of the most exclusive residential areas, adjacent to the French Ambassador's Residence - Zahran Palace Street.

3 sizable bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, modern kitchen, terraces with beautiful view.

Call 821243, for appointment.

Ranariddh: Coup threat over

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Monday there was no longer a danger to the country following the weekend coup attempt by his half-brother Prince Norodom Chakrapong.

"The threat is over now," Prince Ranariddh said, adding that he did not think the coup would have an adverse effect on the country's image.

"Look at Thailand, Thailand has survived how many coups since 1939, Thailand has survived perfectly and is a very developed country," he told reporters as he entered the National Assembly.

Members of parliament were told diplomats it was an attempt to overthrow the radical Khmer Rouge.

Prince Chakrapong, a bitter foe of his half-brother, went to Malaysia Sunday following a request from his father King Norodom Sihanouk, a government official said.

The Malaysian authorities confirmed Monday that Prince Chakrapong was seeking refuge.

"The government has given permission for Prince Chakrapong and his family to stay here temporarily. We will only consider the question of political asylum if there is a request," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters.

The minister declined to disclose where the prince and his family were being put up.

Cambodia's Deputy Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith said the other coup leader, Sin Song, interior minister in the former communist Cambodian People's Party regime, was still under arrest and would later be asked to leave the country.

Government troops prevented some 200 rebel soldiers from advancing on the capital late Saturday.

Government officials initially called the event a show of force to support an attempted political comeback by the two coup leaders.

But Cabinet Minister Sok An later told diplomats it was an attempt to overthrow the government.

When the "armed group" was intercepted some 25 kilometres east of the city, they were "not very clear about what they were doing," Mr. Sok An said, adding "They surrendered very quickly."

Mr. Sok An said Prince Chakrapong confessed to his role saying he staged the coup in order to give full executive powers to King Sihanouk, a constitutional monarch.

But a witness who was with the prince up until he left the country, said he was not aware of Prince Chakrapong making any confession.

Mr. Sok An went on to say

Mr. Sin Song claimed the coup was in protest at the idea of allowing the Khmer Rouge into the government.

"But I don't think Sin Song is coping with reality," Mr. Sok An said as the coup came just before members of parliament were expected to formally outlaw the Khmer Rouge.

Other government officials said the two were flexing their muscles to try to regain seats in parliament.

Prince Chakrapong and Mr. Sin Song resigned their seats to protest the CPP's loss in last year's U.N.-supervised polls.

The two controversial figures then led a short-lived secessionist movement in eastern Cambodia. They re-emerged some six months ago and demanded their seats back.

Parliament has argued over whether the two should be re-admitted. Last week, however, the CPP agreed to drop its support for the comeback in exchange for Prince Ranariddh signing a petition to support the move to outlaw the Khmer Rouge.

A Western diplomat, however, said he did not believe it was a serious coup attempt. "It makes no sense. They don't have a big enough support base," he said.

Prince Chakrapong and Mr. Sin Song were either manipulated or else the supposed coup was pre-arranged with the consent of CPP leaders, he said.

It gave the CPP a "face-saving" way of disposing of the two figures after the party had dropped support for their political rehabilitation, he said, adding that he did not believe Mr. Sin Song would receive any severe sanction.

Meanwhile Cambodian Secretary of State for Defence Chay Sang Yung, an alleged associate of the leaders of Sunday's attempted coup, has gone missing, government officials said Monday.

"We do not know where he has gone but he is not in the capital," joint Defence Minister Tea Banh said.

Chay Sang Yung was reportedly an associate of Prince Chakrapong and Mr. Sin Song, the leaders of the coup foiled by government troops.

Government officials told AFP that Chay Sang Yung had fled to Vietnam. But Minister for Interior You Hockry said the government did not know where he had gone. "All we know is that he is missing," he said.

Meanwhile Khmer Rouge radio, monitored in Bangkok, accused the government of arresting "certain people who refused to vote for a law outlawing the Khmer Rouge" in the wake of the coup attempt.

There were no reports in the Cambodian capital however of parliament members being arrested.



Armed police escort rebel Prince Norodom Chakrapong to the airport after government troops foiled a march on the capital by soldiers loyal to the prince. The prince left Cambodia to Malaysia after government troops prevented up to 200 heavily-armed breakaway soldiers from entering Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

Philippine filmfest scandal woman admits guilt

MANILA (R) — The woman at the heart of a Philippine film industry scandal admitted Monday she rigged an awards ceremony because of her love for one of the country's top young actors.

"I would like to ask for pardon from all of you for what I did," talent manager Lolita Solis told reporters. "I didn't expect that this will all come to this. I did it for love." Ms. Solis said she rigged last month's Manila Film Festival awards ceremony to ensure the best actor title went to star Gabby Concepcion, whom she said she loved like a son. "I did it for Gabby Concepcion. I promised him that no matter what happened he would be the best actor," said Ms. Solis, a major figure in the local film industry with the reputed power to make or break careers. The scandal has dominated newspaper headlines ever since millions of people watched the presenters of the televised awards ceremony announce the wrong names for best actor and best actress. Ms. Solis, Concepcion and Ruffa Gutierrez, wrongly named best actress, have all been charged with fraud along with Ms. Gutierrez's mother, Anabelle Rama. Two of the awards ceremony presenters, local actress Nanette Medved and Miss Marmura Velveke Babajee, have also been charged. The main players all denied any wrongdoing when the scandal broke, but with the exception of the Gutierrez family, they have each admitted since the awards that they were a sham. Most pointed the finger of guilt at Ms. Solis. Although claiming Ms. Solis devised the whole thing, Ms. Solis said in a statement to city officials Monday that 27-year-old Concepcion had given her the idea.

Get out of here, shopkeeper tells Richard Gere

LONDON (R) — A British shopkeeper mistook screen star Richard Gere for a tramp and threw him out of the shop, a British newspaper reported Monday. Gere, in Britain for his new film, Last Knight, has grown his hair and a beard for his part as Sir Lancelot. But the screen sex symbol's new look fooled the owners of a fishing tackle shop in Farefare, southern England. "He looked like he'd been sleeping rough," shop owner John Chapman told the Sun newspaper. When Gere asked Mr. Chapman's wife Sue for a pair of moccasin shoes, she told him to get elsewhere. She only realised her mistake when a smiling Gere walked out to his chauffeur-driven limousine. "No one can believe I let him go like that," Sue Chapman told the newspaper.

Li Peng tinkles Mozart's ivories

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng took time off from business and ended his tour of Austria on a cultural note. Mr. Li strolled through the historic town of Salzburg to visit Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birthplace. The Mozart Museum arranged a piano recital on an instrument once played by the composer, and Mr. Li tinkled the ivories on the way out. From there, Mr. Li's 15-car cavalcade swept out of Salzburg to the rural idyll of St. Gilgen where he, sporting a gold Rolex watch, took a cruise with his entourage on the crystal blue Wolfgangsee Lake.

Blind man irritated over speeding fine

AUCKLAND (AFP) — A man who was born blind is up in arms after being told he had clocked up a speeding fine, the New Zealand Herald reported Monday. Radio broadcaster Jonathan Mosen said he received the notice in the mail after his wife had been snapped driving the couple's car by a roadside speed camera. Mr. Mosen and his wife, Ananda, are joint owners of the car, but the 50 New Zealand dollars (\$33) fine notice cited him as the offender, and even gave him a fictitious driver's licence number. "Driving is something I have always secretly wanted to do. After all, there are plenty of idiots on the road now," Mr. Mosen confessed. He said his wife would pay the fine, but added that the two were keen to set the record straight with the police.

Death toll hits 37 in USAir crash

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) — The death toll in the crash of a USAir jet here climbed to 37 late Sunday as authorities discovered more bodies in the plane's charred wreckage.

Meanwhile, government officials were trying to figure out what made Flight 1016 — carrying 52 passengers and five crew members from Columbia, South Carolina — crash and break into three parts while trying to land here Saturday evening.

Late Sunday, the death toll in the worst crash in the United States in more than two years rose to 37 from the 22 reported earlier in the day.

Seventeen people remained in the hospital, the airline said. Three people were treated and released.

The DC-9 was trying to land at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport when it smashed into trees and sheared off the top of telephone poles before hitting the ground and breaking up, officials said.

They said the tail section barrelled into a house near the airport and caught fire. Five people were in the house and two were reportedly treated in the hospital for smoke inhalation.

Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, who flew to the crash site to survey the damage, said the death toll could have been much higher given the way the plane broke up.

"To see that we had so many survivors is a miracle," Mr. Pena told CNN before a meeting of National Transportation Safety Board investigators looking into the cause of the crash.

Mr. Pena said the accident broke a string of good luck for U.S. domestic carriers. "We have been very blessed that for over two years there have been no deaths in (major) commercial airlines."

Flight 1016 was trying to land in a thunderstorm with visibility of about one mile (1.6 kilometres), officials said.

The pilot aborted one approach and was trying to climb for another when the DC-9 hit the trees and telephone poles. It was not immediately known why he pulled up after the first try.

The DC-9 was almost 21 years old — described by airline officials as middle-aged — and had a veteran crew, said George Tyndall, USAir's customer service manager at the Columbia, South Carolina, airport.

Tyndall said Captain Michael Greenlee had more than 1,900 hours in DC-9s and First Officer James Hayes had more than 3,100 hours in DC-9s.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) "had no idea of any problem" before the aircraft crashed at 6:40 p.m. (2240 GMT), said Kathleen Bergen, an FAA spokeswoman at Atlanta, Georgia.

Officials were studying tapes of the final communications between the pilot and air-controllers but said the contents would not be available for weeks. The plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder were recovered.

Investigators are hoping to have more details once they interview the flight crew.

Texas highway death toll hits 37

DALLAS (R) — A van pulling back onto a highway from the shoulder was struck by a tractor-trailer, killing 14 people, pushing Sunday's death toll on Texas roads toward a one-day record, police said.

As of 6 p.m. Sunday, 37 people had died in vehicle accidents in Texas since midnight Saturday, Mike Cox, spokesman for the State Department of Public Safety, told Reuters.

"That is approaching a single-day record," he said.

The Texas one-day highway fatality record is 42, recorded on Dec. 24, 1975.

Fourteen people, mainly children, died in the van after a fiery explosion, Mr. Cox said.

The van had been stopped on the side of the highway because of mechanical problems. When the van driven by Claudia Funches, 44, of Los Angeles, attempted to return to the highway, it was struck from the rear by the truck, Mr. Cox said.

The force of the impact knocked the van about 600 feet before it burst into flames, Mr. Cox said.

Mr. Funches remained in critical condition Sunday night at a Dallas hospital. Two children were listed in serious condition while another adult was in stable condition at other hospitals.

Earlier Sunday, 11 people were killed in another tractor-trailer crash near Hermleigh, Texas, northwest of Abilene, Mr. Cox said.

Havel calls for spiritual renewal

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Czech President Vaclav Havel received the 1994 Philadelphia Liberty Medal Monday with a call for a spiritual renewal to unite people who are linked globally but violently torn by cultural conflicts.

Speaking on the day marking America's Independence from England at Independence Hall, Mr. Havel said fundamental principles of democracy, such as individual liberty and power based in the people, will mean nothing unless they are grounded in an awareness of mankind's place in the universe and a "respect for the miracle of being."

The medal honouring the principles of democracy also carries a \$100,000 award.

Gunmen kill Turkish diplomat in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Gunmen killed a senior Turkish diplomat in an ambush as he was getting into a car outside his Athens home Monday, police said.

Three men pumped six bullets into Turkish embassy Counsellor Omer Haluk Sipahioğlu, 46, hitting him in the chest, abdomen and hand before escaping in heavy traffic.

Mr. Sipahioğlu survived the attack but died in hospital several hours later.

The gunmen staged the ambush as the diplomat was getting into his car in the coastal suburb of Palaio Faliro to drive to work at the central Athens embassy.

He was alone in the vehicle and the window on the driver's side was blown out by a hail of bullets from semi-automatic pistols.

A hospital spokesman said Mr. Sipahioğlu underwent several hours of surgery but had lost too much blood to be saved.

The spokesman said the diplomat spoke only briefly, and in English, simply telling doctors when he arrived at hospital: "I'm dying."

No one has claimed responsibility for the shooting. But police said they suspected that the attack was carried out by Kurds fighting against Turkish rule or Greece's leftist November 17 urban guerrillas.

November 17 has been in operation since 1975 and has claimed responsibility for killing 20 Greeks, Americans and Turks.

Guerrillas from the group shot and killed the Turkish press attaché and seriously wounded the Turkish consul with a bomb blast in separate attacks in 1991.

November 17 said it carried out those attacks because Turkey had "expansionist policies" in the region and was trying to permanently divide the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Police said they were also considering the possibility that Kurdish guerrillas staged the shooting. Kurdish rebels have been fighting for independence in southeastern Turkey.

Witnesses said that the gunman had very dark complexion. It was still unclear whether they were Greeks.

Monday's attack is certain to aggravate relations between Greece and Turkey, which have been strained in recent months by a series of disputes.

Greece has accused Ankara of violating its airspace, raising tensions in a large Muslim minority near the Turkish border, and of failing to provide security for the ecumenical patriarch — the Istanbul-based spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians.

Ankara has accused Greece of aiding the Kurdish rebels, who have carried out several attacks against tourist targets in Turkey in recent months.

Russia, U.S. to engage in judicial, police cooperation

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia and the United States agreed Monday to sign judicial and police cooperation accords to try and fight organised crime.

Louis Freeh, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), said after his meeting with Alexei Ilushenko, Russia's attorney general, that "this is just the first building block of what we hope will be a broad and deep relationship."

Mr. Ilushenko said he and Mr. Freeh had agreed to sign a treaty soon which would "concern extradition and legal aid in criminal affairs."

Mr. Freeh, who arrived in Moscow Saturday for a three-day visit, is scheduled Tuesday to sign a "cooperation protocol" with the Russian Interior Minister, said First Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Egorov, cited by Interfax.

"This protocol will be the legal base upon which we will build our cooperation, which is developing very nicely," Mr. Egorov said after meeting with Mr. Freeh and Minister of the Interior Viktor Ern.

Meanwhile the FBI's first field office in Russia will lay the foundation for the coming battle against the increasingly dangerous organised crime groups operating in the country, Mr. Freeh

Keating, Labour hit by disastrous poll slump

SYDNEY (AFP) — The popularity of Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his Labour government has slumped disastrously at a time economists believe they should be unbeatable, according to poll results published Monday.

A poll of 1,000 voters in the Sydney Morning Herald shows the new and until recently almost unknown conservative opposition leader, Alexander Downer, has opened up a huge lead over Mr. Keating as preferred prime minister — 53.4 per cent to 30.7.

It shows the government should have been virtually annihilated if an election had been held on the last weekend of June, when the Liberal-National coalition had stretched its lead to 20 percentage points — 60.1 per cent to 39.9.

Another poll for this week's Time magazine gives the opposition a smaller, but still convincing, lead of 46.5 per cent to 42 per cent.

The only comfort for Mr. Keating is that the next election need not be held until 1996.

'House of horror' man charged with 12th murder

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — A British man already accused of killing 11 women and girls and burying their bodies in a case dubbed the "house of horror" serial killer has been charged with a 12th murder, police said Monday.

Frederick West, a 52-year-old builder, was charged Sunday with the murder of 18-year-old Scots woman Anne McFall in the Gloucester area of western England in the summer of 1967 when she was heavily pregnant.

The charge came after Mr. West was transferred to police custody for three days for further questioning in the inquiry.

The remains of Ms. McFall, understood to have worked for the West family as a nanny, have not yet been formally identified. Police said the remains were discovered early last month in a field at Kempley, Gloucestershire.

Mr. West already faces murder counts after the discovery of the remains of nine young women and girls in his home and garden at Cromwell Street. His alleged victims include his daughter Heather, 16, who vanished in 1987.

Baltics seek Clinton support on troop pullout

RIGA (Agencies) — Leaders of the three Baltic states will be seeking a strong declaration of U.S. support for freeing their countries of the last Russian troops when they meet President Bill Clinton in Latvia Wednesday.

The presence of 10,500 Russian soldiers in Latvia and 2,500 in Estonia will be high on the agenda when Mr. Clinton meets President Gaitis Ushakovs of Latvia, Lemar Meri of Estonia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania for joint talks.

"We are waiting for strong U.S. support on the pull-out of Russian troops," Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik told Estonian Radio recently.

The three Baltic states, independent between the two world wars, were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and regained their independence in 1991 only after a hardline coup attempt against the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Russia has withdrawn from Lithuania troops left behind by the collapse of Soviet power and has agreed to pull its troops out of Latvia by Aug. 31. But it has not agreed to leave Estonia.

The main topic of the discussions will be about security problems, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs told Reuters. "It is necessary to withdraw the troops by Aug. 31 and I hope that will be done in Latvia and Estonia," he added.

A senior U.S. administration official said Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. president to visit the Baltics, intended to raise the troops issue with President Boris Yeltsin in private talks after the Naples G7 summit this weekend.

"It's terribly important that the troops be out by Aug. 31. That was the deadline set by Russian government, another senior U.S. official in the region said.

Moscow, however, has linked the troops issue with the treatment of large Russian-speaking minorities in Estonia and Latvia, many of whom were brought in to man Soviet factories.

It accuses Estonia of discriminating against the Russians with language and citizenship laws. Estonia denies this.

Russia also strongly criticised a new Latvian citizenship law passed by parliament last month which would restrict the chances of many Russian-speakers in Latvia becoming citizens.

The bill was also criticised by the Council of Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Mr. Ushakovs, after talks with Western ambassadors, the CSCE and the council, sent the bill back to parliament for redrafting.

Mr. Ushakovs stressed Friday that the meeting with Mr. Clinton would not be anti-Russian. "All of us are interested in the establishment of normal good-neighbourly relations with Russia. The conversation with Bill Clinton will be held only in this light," he was quoted as saying by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

A U.S. official said the troops issue should be resolved by negotiation. "We think there are issues that both sides can compromise on," he said.

Under the troop pullout deal, Latvia allowed some 22,000 Russian ex-officers to stay. Mr. Birkavs said he hopes for a greater U.S. contribution to a fund set up to help with the voluntary repatriation of Russian military pensioners.

The talks are also due to cover trade, investment, support for economic reform and the Baltic states' participation in NATO's partnership for peace programme.

Mr. Clinton, on the first stop on a week-long tour leading up to the G7 summit, is due to deliver a speech at Riga's Freedom Monument before leaving for the Polish capital, Warsaw.

Preparing for the four-nation trip to Europe, President Clinton urged Central and Eastern Europe "not to overreact" with worries about a potential security threat or undue influence from Russia.

"There will be tensions and disagreements from time to time, but I believe we can have a united Europe with a responsible, strong Russia, and we are going to work for that," Mr. Clinton said in an interview transcript released Sunday.

In a series of interviews with foreign journalists and reporters from ethnic newspapers in the United States, Mr. Clinton said he could sympathise with anxieties with Poland and elsewhere about what one questioner called "renewed pressure and imperialistic tendencies" by Russia.

But he added: "I think it's important not to overreact to that. We watch this with great interest. And our concern and commitment to Poland is great."

Russia enrolled last month in NATO's partnership for peace, which offers former Warsaw Pact nations broad political and military cooperation and holds out the possibility of eventual NATO membership. In addition, Russia and NATO adopted a joint declaration that said both have "important contributions to make to European stability and security."

Russia's potential influence is a sensitive matter in other East European capitals, which worry that Moscow could have too strong a say in the alliance's dealings with them.

Mr. Clinton cited Russia's efforts to help promote peace in Bosnia and Georgia and progress on withdrawing its troops from the Baltic states as examples where Russia, "while more active in its area, in its neighbourhood, if you will, has been largely constructive."

"I believe that we have a chance to work out a constructive relationship where the Russians say, 'we want an active foreign policy, but we will recognise the freedom and the independence of all our neighbours,'" Mr. Clinton said.

Asked if he could envision potential reunification of Russia with Ukraine, Belarus or other former Soviet republics, Mr. Clinton said, "it depends upon whether such movements would develop out of a genuine democratic movement and a free will of the people involved."

"I think the people of Central and Eastern Europe will know... in their hearts and minds whether it was a grassroots, honest, democratic impulse," he added. "And that will be the test."

Asked when NATO would be ready to offer former Warsaw Pact members full membership, Mr. Clinton said he had no doubt NATO would be expanded but that some members weren't yet ready for that step.

"I can't do that alone," he said. "...That probably won't be done until sometime next year, because of the feeling of all the NATO members about it."

He stressed that Russia, where its resistance to early NATO membership for Poland, would not have veto power over what countries can join, nor was it true "that something bad has to happen in Russia before we expand NATO."

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Get out of here, shopkeeper tells Richard Gere

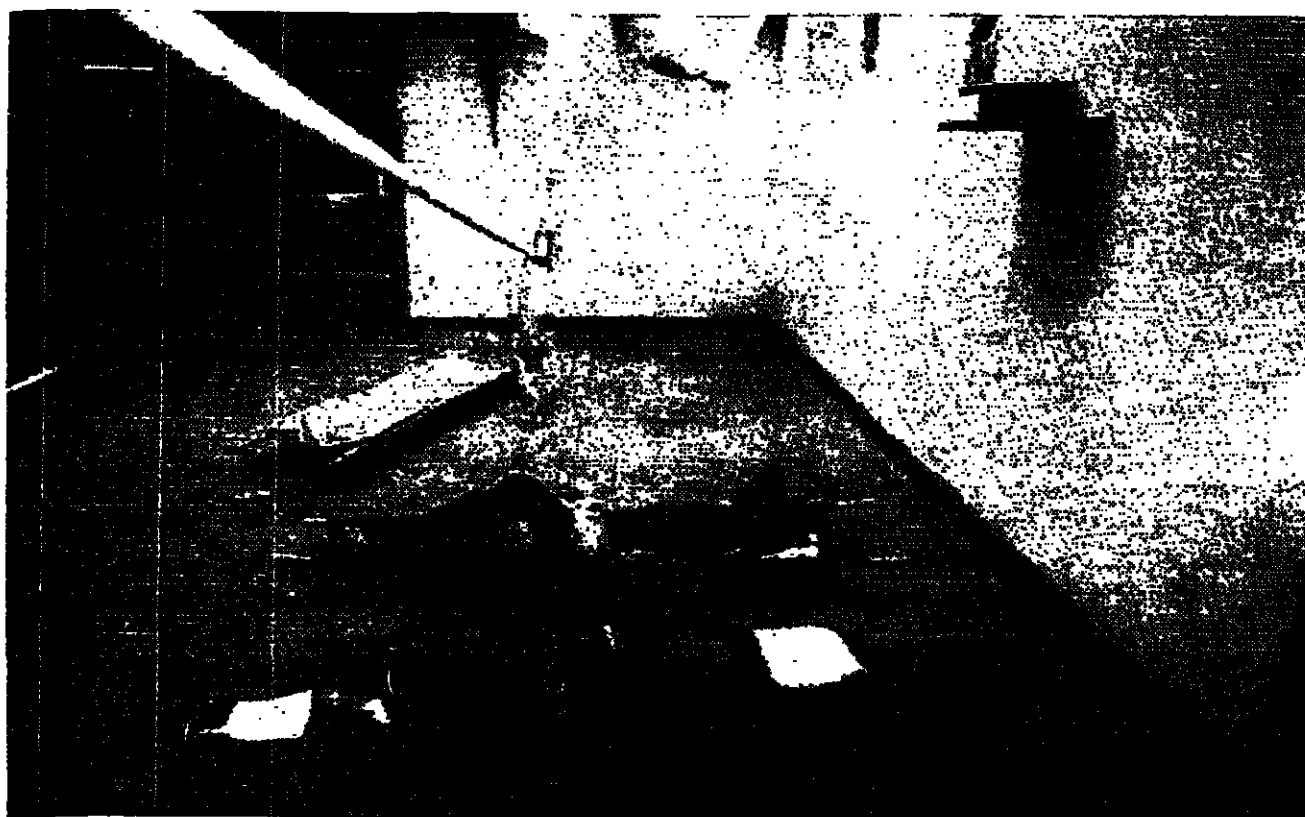
LONDON (R) — A British shopkeeper mistook screen star Richard Gere for a tramp and threw him out of the shop, a British newspaper reported Monday. Gere, in Britain for his new film, Last Knight, has grown his hair and a beard for his part as Sir Lancelot. But the screen sex symbol's new look fooled the owners of a fishing tackle shop in Farefare, southern England. "He looked like he'd been sleeping rough," shop owner John Chapman told the Sun newspaper. When Gere asked Mr. Chapman's wife Sue for a pair of moccasin shoes, she told him to get elsewhere. She only realised her mistake when a smiling Gere walked out to his chauffeur-driven limousine. "No one can believe I let him go like that," Sue Chapman told the newspaper.

Li Peng tinkles Mozart's ivories

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Blind man irritated over speeding fine

AUCKLAND (AFP) — A man who was born blind is up in arms after being told he had clocked up a speeding fine, the New Zealand Herald reported Monday. Radio broadcaster Jonathan Mosen said he received the notice in the mail after his wife had been snapped driving the couple's car by a roadside speed camera. Mr. Mosen and his wife, Ananda, are joint owners of the car, but the 50 New Zealand dollars (\$33) fine notice cited him as the offender, and even gave him a fictitious driver's licence number. "Driving is something I have always secretly wanted to do. After all, there are plenty of idiots on the road now," Mr. Mosen confessed. He said his wife would pay the fine, but added that the two were keen to set the record straight with the police.



Two victims of an attack by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) against a camp of the gendarmes lie in the Red Cross hospital in Kigali, awaiting first-aid (AFP photo)

Mediators prepare final Bosnia peace plan

GENEVA (R) — Envoys from five nations are putting the finishing touches Monday to a take-it-or-leave-it peace plan dividing Bosnia almost exactly in half between Serbs and their Muslim and Croat foes.

A map of the ethnic division will be presented to Bosnia's warring leaders Tuesday by officials of the so-called contact group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

At the same time, foreign ministers of the five will endorse the plan and try to press the Bosnian factions to agree through a series of threats and promises.

The contact group was due to meet at the German diplomatic mission in Geneva Monday afternoon to complete negotiations on the map, diplomats said.

The plan will give around 49 per cent of territory to the Serbs, who hold 70 per cent after more than two years of war, leaving the Muslims and Croats with the remaining 51 per cent.

But recent statements by the Bosnian foes, and especially by the Serbs, appear to offer little chance that the map will win acceptance.

"They'll offer them the map, the Serbs will reject it, and then they will all go back to war," a Western diplomat predicted Monday.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, due to arrive in

Geneva Tuesday, and leaders of the new Muslim-Croat federation have criticised the plan — Mr. Karadzic because it takes too much territory from the Serbs and the others because it leaves the Serbs with too much captured and "ethnically cleansed" land.

The problem, for Mr. Karadzic at least, is one of "quality" of land rather than of straight percentages.

Diplomats may the latest version of the map would return large parts of eastern Bosnia alongside the Drina River to the Muslims, which the Serbs are unlikely to agree.

The Serbs would also all but lose a land corridor across northern Bosnia which connects Serb-held territory in Bosnia and neighbouring Croatia with Serbia itself.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was quoted Monday as saying he was pessimistic about the chances of Bosnia's warring factions accepting an international peace plan.

Interviewed by the French daily Le Monde, Mr. Hurd said Bosnia was approaching a dangerous deadline and "the situation worries me very much."

"I can't pretend that we have managed to get the parties to negotiate seriously, particularly about the map dividing Bosnian territory along ethnic lines," Mr. Hurd

was quoted as saying, according to the French translation.

He said there was a serious risk of war being rekindled and extended, citing pressure in the U.S. Congress to lift a U.N. arms embargo on the Muslim-led Bosnian government, pressure to do the opposite in Russia's parliament, and pressure in states which have U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia to withdraw them.

In Bosnia, a Canadian soldier was slightly hurt in early Monday when his patrol came under Muslim sniper fire in the Visoko region of central Bosnia, a U.N. military spokesman said.

The incident occurred around 4 a.m. as a Canadian liaison officer and soldiers from his escort were making their way to Muslim Bosnian headquarters at Visoko to complain about Muslim sniper fire directed at a Canadian observation post a couple of hours earlier, said U.N. Protection Force spokesman Commander Eric Chaperon.

The soldier received slight face injuries.

The observation post had already come under sniper fire Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, artillery duels between Muslims and Serbs continued late Sunday and overnight Sunday to Monday along the eastern side of the Ozren Mountain range, an area of northern Bosnia where Serbs have just re-

led a Muslim offensive.

A total of 123 explosions were reported in the area of Gracanica, Maj. Chaperon said.

Further north in the Doboj area, there was an increase in the number of artillery exchanges during the course of Sunday, and a total of 102 explosions were reported in the Posavina corridor region which links western Bosnian Serb-held territory with Serbia proper.

Meanwhile the United States opened an embassy in Sarajevo Monday with a garden party that doubled as an Independence Day celebration — minus the fireworks that might have been interpreted as shelling here.

"We agonised over having a party but finally decided to do something like this in a modest way with taste and bring a bit of Americana to Sarajevo," said American Ambassador Victor Jackovich.

"Something special is expected of us and we wanted more than a few speeches and the clink of champagne glasses. This is not an elitist event, it's an American fourth of July party."

Mr. Jackovich had walked the streets of the shell-shattered Bosnian capital handing out invitations to startled residents, many of whom joined him for Monday's festivities.

21 countries offer U.N. 30,000 reserve troops

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Twenty-one countries have confirmed their willingness to supply a total of some 30,000 reserve troops for U.N. peacekeeping missions, the U.N. secretary general has announced.

The report on troop pledges, admitted to the Security Council and released Saturday, is the latest step in a plan Secretary General Boutros Ghali launched last year to establish a reserve force.

The reserve force plan would give the world body a precise idea of the forces and supplies member states would loan for peacekeeping operations.

Once in place, its arrangements would allow for swifter deployment of troops on loan from member states to hot-spots around the globe.

Such information could allow the United Nations to overcome problems like those it ran into this year when it spent months trying to organise and send peacekeeping missions, such as its effort for Rwanda.

At this point, Argentina, Britain, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Spain, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay have committed to the plan a total of nearly 30,000 troops.

And assistance put at the United Nations' disposal would include military groups, civilian police, specialised military equipment and personnel.

In addition to these "firm" commitments, other offers are awaited from 27 member states, with 10 working on

Bangladesh hopes diplomats will not flout country's laws

DHAKA (Agencies) — Bangladesh said Monday it hoped foreign diplomats would not flout the country's laws by giving fugitive feminist writer Taslima Nasrin shelter.

"Bangladesh has the confidence that no foreign diplomat...will compromise the high respect and protection accorded to a diplomat," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The ministry Monday refused to say what the government's plans were should they discover that Ms. Nasrin was being sheltered in an embassy.

Dhaka newspapers reported Sunday that Ms. Nasrin had been sheltered by the ambassador of a Western country.

"An embassy of a Western country is said to have given shelter to Taslima Nasrin," the daily New Nation said, quoting diplomatic sources.

It said the ambassador giving her sanctuary was "harbouring Taslima, defying the laws of the host country."

Another newspaper, Jananika, and the private news agency UNB carried reports similar to that in the New Nation, quoting what they called reliable sources.

Taslima Nasrin is denying

herself the protection of law by not surrendering before the court," the ministry statement said.

Ms. Nasrin, a physician-turned-writer in her early 30s, became the subject of Muslim fury in Bangladesh after she was quoted in India's Statesman newspaper as saying Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

She has denied saying this but the government ordered her arrest for insulting Islam after the Statesman's report was reprinted in the Bangladesh Times on June 4.

Muslim fundamentalists have called for her death.

She has been at the centre of controversy before because of her anti-religion and anti-marriage views.

Meanwhile rightwing group has threatened a siege of the U.S. Information Service (USIS) office in Dhaka unless it withdraws a statement considered too sympathetic to Ms. Nasrin.

The pro-Islamic Daily Inqilab newspaper Monday quoted leaders of the Jatiya Jubo Command, a youth group aligned to the right-wing Freedom Party (FP), as expressing fury about comments made by President Bill Clinton about Ms. Nasrin.

Threats were also made to

Norway over the case and said the "infidel" Nasrin would be "hanged." Two other groups have already offered money for her death.

"You might have love for Taslima, but this is Bangladesh, not America," Command President Nazmul Haq said at a rally here Sunday.

He warned of serious consequences if Norway helped Ms. Nasrin flee the country.

A Norwegian diplomat reportedly visited Dhaka last week for talks with Bangladesh officials on the issue.

The FP is headed by leaders of the 1975 military coup that overthrew President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, later assassinated.

The United States said it took "no position" on Ms. Nasrin's writings and respected all faiths, but was "disturbed" by threats of violence against her, including death calls.

A USIS statement said Mr. Clinton has "made it clear, the United States stands firmly against the forces of intolerance."

Meanwhile, sources said police were closely watching the diplomatic areas and Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate's court, which set Monday for Ms. Nasrin to appear.

arrest warrant."

Preliminary investigating judge Adele Rando will have to decide on Mr. Misiani's request that an international arrest warrant be issued for Mr. Craxi. It was not clear when the judge would make her decision.

Magistrates leading a separate investigation of Mr. Craxi in Milan ordered him to hand in his passport last May but could not locate him. He is being investigated in 70

Rwanda rebels take Kigali, Butare

KIGALI (R) — Jubilant Rwandan rebels captured the capital Kigali and the last major government-held southern town of Butare Monday but in a radical policy shift, French troops were ordered to halt any further advance.

Witnesses said forces of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) pushed into central Kigali shortly after daybreak following two days of intense artillery bombardment of key government positions.

Hundreds of dispirited government soldiers, fleeing the rebel advance, tramped up the central African city's mist-shrouded hills to escape southwards through the one remaining exit not yet sealed by RPF fighters.

"I am so happy, for so long I have dreamed of walking through the streets of Kigali," said RPF Commander Colonel Frank Mugambwe as he escorted a group of journalists around abandoned government positions.

He said there was not much fighting as the rebels moved into the city centre in their first major push in several weeks of fighting.

"The government appears to have withdrawn from all strategic sites in the city centre. There are still pockets of resistance, but those we are now dealing with," he added.

Columns of young rebel soldiers wound their way through the sandy lanes of the rambling, bomb-blasted capital to take up positions at key captured sites.

Tired and wet after more than three months of hard combat, they waved and smiled at groups of watching journalists.

Many residents appeared to keep of the streets, but at the Sainte Famille religious complex — a death camp for some 2,000 refugees threatened by extremist mili-

tia of the Hutu tribe — there was jubilation.

Rebel soldiers, most of whom come from the minority Tutsi tribe, embraced relatives and friends long given up for dead in a country where an estimated 500,000 people have been butchered since early April.

"Early on Monday, the Interhamwe militia walked away and then nothing happened. I knew it was the end," said a 26-year-old Tutsi student, in Nyonzima.

Only hours after securing control of Kigali, RPF forces to the south stormed into the last major government-held southern town of Butare and threatened to move deeper into the heartland of the government-backed Hutus.

"They have taken Butare. The information we have is it fell at 1200 local time (1000 GMT)," a French military officer told Reuters at the main French base in Goma, Zaire, for "Operation Turquoise."

But he added that RPF forces had not yet reached Gikongoro, where French troops received the order Monday to halt the rebel advance on the government's enclave in the west of Rwanda.

Colonel Didier Thibaut, based in Gikongoro, 20 kilometres from the battle front, said Colonel Jacques Rosier, commander of Operation Turquoise's southern command, had ordered him to stop the rebels from capturing the town or going beyond it.

The order marked a radical shift in France's policy towards the RPF and put Operation Turquoise on a new offensive footing just as rebel forces were turning on the west.

Until now Paris had insisted that it was leading a purely humanitarian mission

and had avoided whenever possible any confrontation with the rebel movement.

Col. Thibaut said the decision took effect immediately. He added that the French would be flying in reinforcements Monday to boost their 100-man presence in Gikongoro, the next town on the road leading west.

"No one will go any further ... ours remains a humanitarian mission, in the security sense of the word," said Col. Thibaut.

The RPF has always ac-



A French marine mans a heavy machine gun atop an armoured vehicle as his comrade chats with cheering young Hutus, in a refugee camp some four kilometres outside Butare, southern Rwanda (AFP photo)

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cused the French of intervening in Rwanda to help government forces, who were trained and armed by the French in the past.

"If the RPF comes here and threatens the population, we will fire on them without any hesitation," Col. Thibaut said.

"We have the means and we will soon have more. It's true that there are 2,000 of them, but you saw yesterday afternoon how powerful our firepower was," he added, referring to Sunday's clash.

U.N. observers express qualified approval to Guinea-Bissau election

BISSAU (R) — U.N. observers expressed qualified approval Monday of Guinea-Bissau's first multi-party elections, saying long delays in opening polling stations in the capital appeared to be due to negligence rather than fraud.

"The information I have is that in the interior of the country the elections went

very well, despite some delays," said Onofre Dos Santos, the head of a team of about 100 U.N. observers who monitored Sunday's poll.

"Here in Bissau the polling stations opened very late...At this moment I don't know how many people actually voted, but I would risk saying that about 80 per

cent of the polling stations actually opened," he told Reuters.

"It seems there was a certain negligence and lack of foresight...I don't think this oversight was intentional...it is very premature for people to start talking about fraud," added Mr. Dos Santos, Angola's director general of elections.

ANC loses control of defence units

TOKOZA, South Africa (R) — The ANC government has lost control of some members of its self-defence units who have vowed to destroy migrant workers hostels occupied by Zulus loyal to their political rivals.

Renegade members of the self-defence units (SDUs) in Tokozia township east of Johannesburg openly declared regional Premier Tokyo Sexwale no longer welcome in the battle-scarred township.

The sound of gunfire echoed throughout Tokozia's streets on Monday morning as commuters boarded taxis to work. It was not clear whether anyone had been killed.

The ANC has lost total control of some members of the SDUs. They are openly defying the peace process," said Tokozia resident Lerato Moroka.

More than 15,000 people

have died in political violence since the start in 1990 of moves to scrap apartheid.

One SDU member told Reuters they were taking the law into their own hands because the ANC-led government did not want to destroy the hostels.

The SDU member, who said he was a commander of at least 50 renegade unit members, challenged Mr. Sexwale to tour the township.

"He will not come out of here alive. We voted for him hoping he will destroy the hostels. Now he wants to improve them. How can you improve dwellings of people who kill us?" he said.

Various political factions formed "self-defence" groups in the Johannesburg townships because of the failure of the police to protect black communities which perceived the security forces as apartheid's enforcer.

Mitterrand gets red carpet welcome in S. Africa

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa put out the red carpet Monday for French President Francois Mitterrand, the first Western leader to visit the country since the elections that buried apartheid, and heard him heap praise on the nation for a "lesson" given to the world.

"This is a lesson in tolerance, democracy and hope," Mr. Mitterrand told a joint session of the newly elected South African parliament here in a nationally televised speech.

"Thank you on behalf of...mankind and on behalf of Africa in all its suffering," Mr. Mitterrand said to applause.

"We embrace you as one of us — a colleague in the search for freedom," President Nelson Mandela told the French leader in a welcoming address.

The only hitch in the proceedings was a show of hostile placards by four Islamic fundamentalists outside the parliament building as Mr. Mitterrand arrived for his speech, hailed as "historic" by

Both Mr. Mandela and Speaker Frene Giniewski, in welcoming Mr. Mitterrand, recalled the previous address to South African MPs by a Western leader — former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's speech 34 years ago announcing a "wind of change sweeping across Africa."

Mr. Mitterrand thanked Mr. Mitterrand for "celebrating with us the cleansing effect of the winds of change."

Mr. Mitterrand recalled France's years of support in the struggle against the apartheid system of racial segregation, and said South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy had "intrigued everyone...You represent a unique experience on the face of the earth."

He stressed France's strong relationship with francophone African countries "on the basis of sovereignty...as equal partners," and pledged France's continuing support for South Africa.

Mr. Mitterrand praised "all South Africans" moral and intellectual courage to

history (in achieving) liberation without revenge," adding: "You have a magnificent task before you: Building a rainbow nation."

But, he warned: "After the tragedies of the past and the euphoria of the present, you will now face the contradictions of day-to-day political life — best of luck to you."

"It is the most unforgettable day — we are deeply honoured," Mr. Mandela commented later as the two men posed for photographers in bright sunshine outside the parliament building, nestled at the foot of Cape Town's landmark Table Mountain.

At a brief ceremony at Tuynhuys, the South African president's official residence, Mr. Mandela presented Mr. Mitterrand with the highest award his country can bestow to a foreign dignitary, the Order of Good Hope, Class I, Grand Cross (Gold).

Mr. Mitterrand, who arrived here Monday morning on a whirlwind two-day visit, later helicoptered to Cape Point, south of here, and was to host a private luncheon at

Another poll shows low support for Murayama

TOKYO (AFP) — New Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama was dealt another public confidence blow Monday with publication of a fresh opinion poll showing he had the support of only 35 per cent of Japanese.

The weekend telephone survey, conducted by the daily Asahi newspaper, covered 1,606 eligible voters, and showed that 43 per cent disapproved of his government.

The approval rating was lower than for those of the last two coalition cabinets when they took office, said Asahi.

Morihiro Hosokawa got a 71 per cent approval rating when he formed his cabinet in August, while Tsutomu Hata got 47 per cent when he formed his in April.

Mr. Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formed his cabinet last week in a coalition with former arch-rival Liberal Democratic Party and the New Party Sakigake.

Other polls released Sunday by Kyodo News Service and the daily Yomiuri gave Mr. Murayama a 33.2 per cent and 37 per cent rating respectively.

prominent South Africans, including leading artists and intellectuals. He will travel to the nearby Khayelitsha later in the day to throw the switch for the first phase of the electrification of the township's 65,000 homes, a project that involved the French utility giant EDF.

The French leader will attend a banquet in his honour offered by Mr. Mandela Monday night and official talks between the two delegations will be held Tuesday morning at Tuynhuys.

The French delegation includes ministers of the economy, Edmond Alphandery, and of cooperation, Michel Rousset.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. Mitterrand will host a joint press conference here before they fly to Johannesburg, where they will together visit the Soweto black township.

Mr. Mitterrand will attend a reception hosted by Tokyo Sexwale, premier of the greater Johannesburg-Pretoria area, and meet South Africa's French community before returning to Paris Tues-

Italian magistrate wants Craxi arrested

ROME (R) — A magistrate asked judicial superiors Monday to issue an international warrant for the arrest of former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi on corruption charges, saying he was refusing to return to Italy from Tunisia.

Magistrate Francesco Misiani made the request during a preliminary hearing of a case in which Mr. Craxi is charged with corruption in the building of Rome's underground railway.

Party leader, Prime Minister from 1983 to 1987, is also due to stand trial from Tuesday in a separate corruption case in Milan.

He has spent the past several months at his Tunisian holiday home in Hammamet, where his wife Anna has taken up residence.

"He has shown no intention of returning," Mr. Misiani told the court. "If we were dealing with a fugitive, we would have to go to Tunis."

arrest warrant."

Preliminary investigating judge Adele Rando will have to decide on Mr. Misiani's request that an international arrest warrant be issued for Mr. Craxi. It was not clear when the judge would make her decision.

Magistrates leading a separate investigation of Mr. Craxi in Milan ordered him to hand in his passport last May but could not locate him. He is being investigated in 70

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Fax: 21497 ALRAI JO
Telex: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Less lead in the air

FOR a country as keen and interested as Jordan is in environmental protection, we are certainly not doing enough. Take for example the non-availability of unleaded gasoline till now, a time when many countries around the world, including this region, have introduced it already in a bid to do something tangible about protecting the environment and human life on earth. Lebanon is the last Middle Eastern country that made the "green fuel" available in spite of the fact that it has barely emerged from its bloody civil war that wrought havoc on its infrastructures across the board. Israel, Egypt and Turkey have long been producing the unleaded fuel in view of the national consciousness about the environment and the urgent need to protect it from the fumes of the ever increasing number of vehicles on their roads.

Being a basic touristic country in the region, the demand on such type of clean fuel is all the more pressing in light of the fact that many car-driven tourists have long shifted to unleaded gasoline. A few months ago Jordan had to import a small shipment of unleaded gasoline in order to accommodate an event in the country involving the use of automobiles that operate on lead-free fuel. No doubt our authorities are aware of the dangers of leaded fuel, but they appear unwilling to shift gears until there is sufficient demand. This is at least what our officials have been telling us.

Such logic is of course a lopsided approach to the problem since there can be no demand for the unleaded gasoline as long as it is no where to be found. Who, for instance, would bring into the country a car operating on unleaded fuel when gasoline stations do not have it? The more sane way of doing business is to start manufacturing the unleaded fuel or at least start importing some small shipments of it till there is a growing demand for it. It would take years to shift use totally. But what we need to do now is to begin the process as all countries in the world have done already. The more formidable obstacle in the face of making clean fuel available is the cost of refining it in our refinery in Zarqa. The cost of doing just that could be relatively high. Yet the cost to our health and to our national environment would be also exorbitant if we do not start.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DISCUSSING THE question of the embargo on Iraq, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday said that the United States stands alone in opposing the lifting of the sanctions at the U.N. Security Council. Tareq Masarweh said that the Europeans and China are in agreement to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people but they are faced with an adamant stand by Washington aided by Rolf Ekeus who is supposed to be a U.N. envoy but has been serving the interests of the Americans. Mr. Ekeus, who started off his job as a U.N. observer of Iraq's compliance to U.N. Security Council resolutions, is now involved in political conspiracy against Iraq, added the writer. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia among the Arab states opposing the lifting of sanctions, has reportedly offered Turkey compensation for its losses from the war to bribe it into refusing to flush the crude oil in the Iraqi pipeline, according to Masarweh. The writer charged that the United States has imposed a blackout on news coming out from Iraq about starvation and death caused by the sanctions, as filed by the Red Cross and the U.N. agencies, while the Zionist lobby in America is pressuring the U.S. administration into maintaining the blackout and the embargo.

TWO MONTHS have elapsed since the start of the conflict in Yemen with no end in sight for the growing sufferings of the Yemeni people and the devastation, said Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dour. The unionists have failed to preserve the country's unity because they resorted to force and the language of guns while the people in the south are moving further away from the concept of unity with the north as their hatred of the attackers deepen by the day, said the writer. What is the use of devastating the cities and the infrastructure of the south and losing the hearts of the local people and what unity could survive on the dead bodies of thousands of innocent civilians? asked the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Ghosts, cheap shots and Levantine MacCarthyism

By Rami G. Khouri

WARRIORS who insist on mobilising their troops to fight the last war are always impressive for their persistence, but sad for their capacity to evade reality and to live in a dream world. This is what we witness today in Jordan in the slightly surrealistic debate about "normalisation" with Israel, especially in the public attacks from left and right alike against individual Jordanians and other Arabs who have met with Israelis or attended gatherings where Israelis were present.

But, this is not really a debate — it is an anguished cry from the past, perhaps the last great howl of Arab agony at the prospect of coexistence with Israel. The normalisation issue will not change the course of state decision-making; but it reveals much about the distressed political psychology of important Arab political players, and for this reason it must be assessed and dealt with.

"Political parties from the Islamist right and from the progressive, socialist, Baathist and nationalist left have joined together in an attempt to discredit individuals who have made contact with Israelis through assorted international meetings. The opponents of the 1991 Madrid peace process and of the Jericho-Gaza first accord signed last year are fighting a losing battle that uses a combination of principled political ideology and crude character assassination."

Political parties from the Islamist right and from the progressive, socialist, Baathist and nationalist left have joined together in an attempt to discredit individuals who have made contact with Israelis through assorted international meetings. The opponents of the 1991 Madrid peace process and of the Jericho-Gaza first accord signed last year are fighting a losing battle that uses a combination of principled political ideology and crude character assassination. The stunning political reality of the last three years is that the key Arab states involved in the negotiations with Israel have pressed ahead with the talks, almost totally ignoring both the scepticism of the majorities of their own people and the more forthright protests of the left-right coalition that opposes the peace process.

Unable to have any impact on the policy decisions of the Arab states, the anti-peace camp has fallen back on its last line of defence by singling out individuals and accusing them of pressing ahead with normalisation. The fact is, the majority of Arabs has accepted the peace talks and looks upon normalisation with Israel as an inherent, logical and rather uncontroversial component of the peace-making process — within a context that assures the national rights of Arabs as well as Israelis.

Those who press the anti-normalisation charges see the peace-making endeavour as a humiliating exercise for the Arabs, and they fear that peace will mean a new form of anti-Arab colonisation and subjugation. They are concerned that the Arab World will be reconfigured by Israel according to its own economic imperatives in the 1990s as it was reconfigured in the 1920s to suit the imperial needs of England and France. This is a reasonable fear, but it speaks

more of the condition of the Arab psyche than it does of the objective facts of Middle Eastern political, demographic and economic realities.

I would suggest that we have little to fear from making peace with Israel, and much to gain. A Middle East rid of the Arab-Israeli conflict will allow Arab political culture to develop in a rational, participatory and more responsive manner, which in turn will allow Arab economic and social capabilities to be tapped in the service of the Arab people. Israel will have to make major adjustments to find its appropriate place in the new map of the region; it will only find its place if it deals with the Arab majority around it in a manner that is mutually beneficial to itself and to the Arab people.

Fears of Israel's subjugation of the Arabs through its alleged commercial and technological prowess are far-fetched, in my opinion, because the entire regional and global context in which Israel has generated its modern power is in the midst of major change. A peaceful, more democratic Middle East will accept a role for Israel as one of several regional centres of intellectual and cultural creativity, and technological excellence. It is in Israel's long-term interest to develop symbiotic and mutually beneficial ties with its Arab hinterland, and it is in the interest of the Arabs to reintegrate Israel's Jewish majority into the wider mosaic of the Semitic family.

The process of making peace does not only comprise Arab concessions to Israel, as the anti-normalisation camp fears. It also elicits Israeli concessions to the Arabs, as we have seen already in the last three years. The hard part for Arabs to swallow is that we have to make more concessions than Israel in the short run and we have to wait a few years more than the Israelis to achieve our rights and aspirations, whether in Palestine or in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

We will not achieve our rights in a single, dramatic historical and diplomatic flourish, but instead will have to engage in a process of incremental gains and cumulative confidence-building measures. While this is politically accepted today by the majority of Arabs, it remains emotionally painful. The pain is not able to find expression in formal political action because the governments and political elites of Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria have decided to press ahead with the peace process, regardless of domestic scepticism or outright rejection.

Therefore, the pain is expressed most visibly by those who charge that normalisation is not only politically treacherous, but also treasonous. This is an easy but hollow charge to make, one that appears increasingly silly in the face of the reality of Arabs and Israelis negotiating on a daily basis, not only in Madrid and Washington, but now also in Israel and in the Arab countries. The charge is made nevertheless, and it cannot be totally discounted as meaningless because it does reflect an important political dynamic that stems from our own societies.

The meaning of this dynamic, I suspect, has less to do with the mechanics of normalisation than it does with the traying political credibility and precarious ideological shelf-life of those leftists and Islamists who now conduct character assassination campaigns against Arabs who sit at tables with Israelis. In Palestine and Jordan, in particular, where the political systems allow for the participation of all ideological viewpoints, the progressive left and the Islamist right are fighting for their lives. They wave the banners and shout the slogans of decades past, because they have been unable to make the transition from the past to the present.

In the face of increasingly grave environmental, economic and social stresses, the majority of Palestinians and Jordanians are preoccupied with the real life challenges of nation-building, social justice, economic rejuvenation, cultural dynamism, intellectual freedom and environmental

protection. These are momentous, almost existential, battles that respond poorly to the bravado of old slogans and to the bombast of discredited maximalist demands.

The Levantine challenges of the day demand less emotionalism and romanticism, and more realism, pragmatism and hard work. This is why the majority in our lands go along with the peace process, despite its many obvious inequities, for we have finally learned the lessons of our hazardous and often harsh modern history.

The left-right coalition of Arab steadfastness and ideological purity, however, remains valiantly stuck in the past, firmly anchored in the mid-century mythology of maximalist diplomacy and anguished nationalistic fury. Unable to make an effective contribution to the real life challenges of the day that most Arab people relate to, the left-right combine singles out individuals as easy targets and engage in the desperate politics of the cheap shot. The accusations of treasonous normalisation they make against individual Arabs would have destroyed those individuals in decades past, but today the accusations are shrugged off as mere irritants.

"I would suggest that we have little to fear from making peace with Israel, and much to gain. A Middle East rid of the Arab-Israeli conflict will allow Arab political culture to develop in a rational, participatory and more responsive manner, which in turn will allow Arab economic and social capabilities to be tapped in the service of the Arab people. Israel will have to make major adjustments to find its appropriate place in the new map of the region; it will only find its place if it deals with the Arab majority around it in a manner that is mutually beneficial to itself and to the Arab people."

In some cases, such as the controversy about the Jerash Festival's invitation to the Syrian poet Adonis, or the campaign against some Jordanian women who participated in a meeting in Morocco that included Israeli women, the charges are not only shrugged off — they also generate an active response and opposition. This is a healthy development for an Arab political culture that rejects the politics of intellectual terrorism and Levantine MacCarthyism. We have accepted our past nationalistic and diplomatic shortcomings and have embarked on a new, more realistic road to our national rights. We have confronted our ghosts from decades past and we have quietly slain them in the mid-1990s.

It remains for the Arab pragmatic majority to make the peace process work and to achieve the promise of Arab national development, as it remains for the left-right Arab rejectionist coalition to come to terms with its own shortcomings and to find its appropriate political place in a society that is determined to work hard for a better future rather than to wallow in the self-flagellating failures and sufferings of the past.

Baltic states, seeking ties to West, host Clinton

Reuters

The three Baltic states, whose leaders meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in the Latvian capital on Wednesday, have always looked West from under the shadow of their giant neighbour Russia.

Mr. Clinton will meet Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, Estonia's President Lennart Meri and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas for talks on security and economic issues.

The three tiny republics, whose combined populations are less than eight million, were independent between the two world wars but were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after it signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact with Nazi Germany.

The West never recognised Baltic incorporation by Moscow.

The three Baltic states regained their independence on Sept. 6, 1991 as the former Soviet Union fell apart. But the Kremlin still casts a shadow over them. Moscow has withdrawn troops left behind by the collapse of Soviet power from Lithuania and has pledged to pull out of Latvia by Aug. 31 but has not agreed to leave Estonia.

The issue has become entangled with the position of large ethnic Russian minorities in Estonia and Latvia.

All three Baltic states have signed up for NATO's Partnership for Peace programme and want free trade deals with the European Union (EU) by the beginning of next year.

Key facts about the three:

Estonia

Population (1994): 1,520,000 of which 62 per cent are Estonians, 38 per cent non-Estonians, mainly Russians but also Ukrainians and Belarusians. Official language: Estonian. Area: 45,100 square

kilometres, including some 800 islands. It borders the Baltic Sea to the north and west, the Russian Federation to the east and Latvia to the south.

Capital: Tallinn. Population about 500,000.

Religions: Lutheran and Russian Orthodox.

Economy: GDP (1993) 22.8 billion kroon (\$1.75 billion). The Estonian kroon currency was introduced in 1992. It is pegged at eight to the mark. Main industries are timber production, dairy farming and agriculture, textiles. Oil shale is mined in the north-east.

History: Estonia, then under Swedish control, was annexed in 1709 by Russia. It proclaimed independence in 1918 with Latvia and Lithuania but all three became part of the Soviet Union under the 1940 pact.

Pro-independence groups won control of all three Baltic parliaments in 1990. Estonia declared a transitional period which it

said would end with a restoration of its pre-1940 status. Estonia declared full independence on Aug. 20, 1991.

President Lennart Meri, a former writer and filmmaker, was chosen head of state by parliament in October 1992, after a popular election a month earlier in which Mr. Meri lost.

The present government is a fragile, faction-ridden coalition headed by reformist premier Mart Laar.

Latvia

Population (1993): 2,631,000, of which 52.5 per cent are Latvians and 34 per cent Russians. Belarusians (4.4), Ukrainians (3.4), Poles (2.2), Lithuanians (1.3) and Jews (0.6) make up the rest. Official language: Latvian.

Area: 64,589 square kilometres. Population density: 40.4 per square kilometre. Latvia is bordered to the north by Estonia and the Baltic Sea, to the west by the Baltic, to

the south by Lithuania and Belarus, and to the east by Russia.

Capital: Riga, population more than 900,000.

Economy: GDP (1993) 1.45 billion lats (\$2.9 billion). The lat was introduced in June 1993. Agriculture, particularly cattle breeding and dairy farming, is an important part of the economy. Much of the land is forest, most farmland is reclaimed marshland. Main industries include machine-building and engineering and textiles.

Religion: Lutheran and Russian Orthodox.

History: Latvia lost its ancient independence in the 13th century and was ruled by Germans, Poles, Swedes and finally Russia. Non-communist Latvians proclaimed independence in 1918 but only won international recognition in 1921.

Latvia remained independent until the 1940 annexation. After World War II, thousands of Latvians and Russians and people from Soviet republics moved into Latvia.

The Latvian Popular Front drew up a programme for an independent state in 1989 and took power in elections in 1990.

The Latvian parliament voted in February 1990 to demand independence and declared "an independent democratic republic" on May 4, 1990, but set aside key issues for future talks. Latvia declared full independence on Aug. 21, 1990.

Guntis Ulmanis, great-nephew of a Latvian inter-war leader, was elected president by parliament in July 1993. The coalition government is dominated by the Latvian Way faction, including ex-Communists and returned emigrants, and the Farmers' Union.

Lithuania

Population (1994): 3,739,000, of whom 81.1

per cent are Lithuanians, 8.5 per cent Russian, 7.0 per cent Polish, 1.5 per cent Belarusians, 1.0 per cent Ukrainians and 0.7 per cent Jews. Official language: Lithuanian.

Area: 65,000 square kilometres bounded by Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east, Poland to the south and the Russian republic and Baltic Sea to the west.

Capital: Vilnius, population 584,400.

Religions: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Economy: GDP (1992) 247.65 billion talons (\$600 million). The talon interim currency was replaced in 1993 by the litas at a rate of one litas to 100 talons. The litas is pegged at four to the dollar. Chief industries include textiles, agriculture, chemicals, paper and electronics.

History: Lithuania unified in the 13th century and, after annexing Russian principalities, became a great European power. Between 1386 and 1569 it

was merged with Poland and in 1795 fell under the control of Russia's tsars.

After the Bolshevik Revolution and German withdrawal in 1918, Lithuania was proclaimed a Soviet republic. In 1919, nationalists and foreign troops overthrew the Soviet government and established a democratic state.

The 1940 pact put most of Lithuania in the Soviet sphere.

On March 11, 1990, Lithuania voted to reaffirm its 1918 declaration of independence.

On Jan. 13, 1990, Soviet troops attacked the Vilnius television and radio centre, killing 13 unarmed people. Algirdas Brazauskas, a former first secretary of the Independent Lithuanian Communist Party, was directly elected president in February 1993. By then the Communist Party had changed its programme and become the Democratic Labour Party (DLP). The present DLP government was elected in November 1992.

LETTERS

Threats to Petra

To the Editor:

MY COMPANY has had the privilege of sending British tourists to Jordan since 1961 and we are very concerned about the recent high increase in the number of visitors to Petra.

This year tourists have been flooding into Jordan, all rushing to visit the marvel of Petra. Recently I drove along the road to Petra and passed five new hotels in the process of being erected.

In addition, it is possible that some day visitors will come in from Eilat. This is going to put intensive pressure on the traffic to Petra and particularly through the Siq. If nothing is done and the flow continues unchecked, chaos and even bad accidents could result.

The number of tourists in Petra should be regulated to ensure the site is not overcrowded. Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of one way traffic with coaches meeting tourists on the other side to avoid clashes between incoming and outgoing tourists.

M. W. Bales,
Bales Tours Limited,
England.

Trams, bananas and open air coffee shops put spark back into city life

By Francis Curta
Agence France Presse

SARAJEVO — Trams, bananas and open air coffee shops are putting a spark back into Sarajevo city life, but money is short and the road out of town remains closed to all but a few.

Crowded trams now clutter down the city's main thoroughfare, known to people abroad as "snipers' alley." People once again stop at red traffic lights, walk the dog, go cycling, sun themselves at cafe terraces and browse through shops selling bananas, peaches, kiwi fruit and coca cola — all for German marks.

By night, in a city which for two years of war was mostly without electricity, lights are on and television sets tuned to World Cup football.

The war has not gone away, but Bosnian Serbs stopped shelling the city in February when the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) threatened to bomb their heavy guns if they were not withdrawn. Sniping continues, but less so than before.

And there is now a road open for those lucky enough to be allowed to leave.

The road leads off through a run-down housing estate, where every corner of land is turned into vegetable patches, sneaks into the U.N.-controlled airport, jumps the main runway, follows a winding mountain track and finally

connects with the pre-war highway which rolls away to the Adriatic.

Hundreds of commercial trucks, some laden with petrol for the local state-owned petrol station (1.7 marks a litre), ferry in goods from the south, from Croatia and Slovenia, thanks to a U.S.-brokered deal under which two months ago warring Bosnian Croats and Muslims entered into a new federation.

At the airport crossing, surrounded by Muslim and Serb trenches, trucks bound for the government-held city have right of passage from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Trucks heading for Serb-controlled areas cross between 12 a.m. and 2 p.m.

But Bosnian police ensure that only those with proper authorisation are allowed to leave the city.

Some, however, are already returning. In the old quarter of town, where Turkish-style wooden houses buddle around a mosque, a restaurant has put up a new sign, advertising its "tourist menu."

Fahudin Sehic, 51, reopened for business two days ago after spending much of the war in Croatia and Germany.

"I don't serve any canned food. All my food is fresh. Lots of vegetables, high quality veal," he says.

"I was always an optimist. I think the war is coming to an end in the whole of Bosnia."

A "Tourist Menu" costs 25 German marks, which

he says is no different from what he charged before the war.

But "customers don't have much money." On the first day, he had five, on the second day 10.

Nearby shops are full of produce. Canned beef for three marks (down from six, proclaims a notice). Sugar is 1.5 marks a kilo, compared to 70 marks six months ago on the black market.

A can of coca-cola costs one mark. Bananas are two marks a kilo. Only ice cream is sold for local currency — two scoops for one German mark or 1.7 million dinars.

"Business is O.K. There is still plenty of money in Sarajevo and money is being sent by relatives from abroad," says Sada, 27, who runs a small hole-in-the-wall shop. She opened two months ago. Before that she served in the army.

"For some people life has returned to normal, but many still live from their rations (distributed from humanitarian aid)," she says.

Armina Vegara, 21, works as a waitress in a city cafe. She earns 250 marks a month — more than her parents, a teacher and an engineer who are paid in local currency. With her earnings, she helps feed them and her two younger brothers.

"Life's not like before, but it's better than during the war," she says.

"The majority of people



Sarajevans jostle each other to board a tram, one element that brings an air of normalcy to the war-torn city (AFP photo)

just come by to see what we've got, to enjoy the sight and to compare

prices," says Elvira Imamovic, who works in another shop. But "some

do get very angry at prices and shout," she adds. Most people still rely on

free humanitarian handouts, brought in by overland convoy or flown in

thanks to the airlift, which on Sunday, marked its second anniversary.

Austrian leader takes China's Li to task on rights

By Douglas Busvine
Reuters

SALZBURG, Austria — Chinese Premier Li Peng got a blunt reminder of European unease over his country's human rights record on Saturday when a welcoming official publicly took him to task for the first time on his Austrian tour.

Salzburg provincial governor Hans Katschthaler, in a welcoming speech for a banquet at the Baroque Archbishop's residence, urged Mr. Li to accelerate the release of political prisoners.

"I call on you... to continue on this way," he said.

Mr. Li is regarded by western human rights campaigners as the man responsible for the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown against pro-democracy activists, but has been shielded from his critics here by a blanket ban on demonstrations and massive security.

Mr. Li took Katschthaler's speech in his stride, calling it "mostly friendly," but hit back in diplomatic style.

"There is one part of the speech I wouldn't like to call unfriendly, but I would say it stems from a misunderstanding about China," he said.

"Beijing is a wonderful city whose people live in freedom."

signed deals worth nearly \$1 billion.

"I am a prime minister and a trade promoter," Mr. Li quipped.

His spokesman Wu Jian Min said the visit had been fruitful in cementing ties at a top level, and he said China valued Austria's in-



Li Peng

fluence as a future European Union (EU) member.

Mr. Li's visit to Germany, which starts in Bonn on Sunday evening, also offers huge potential to develop trade ties.

"In 1993 Sino-German trade volume was \$10 billion, which is a big number but if you look at the potential of the two countries this is still quite small," he said.

Asked if Mr. Li would face a rougher ride from rights activists in Germany, Mr. Wu said: "In Austria as well as in Germany there are different views and if there are protests it's nothing strange."

"The development of relations between China and Germany is in the interests of both sides and if some

people don't like it then that's their business."

Despite boycott of Mr. Li's trip that went all the way up to Vice-Chancellor Erhard Busek, Austria's predominantly loss-making state industries received a boost from Chinese orders which could pave the way to more lucrative business.

Vöest Alpine Stahl A.G. landed a tentative order worth \$23 million for toughened track from its unit Vöest Alpine Schienen GMBH, Europe's largest track maker.

ON Thursday, Vöest sister company Va Technologie A.G. had signed a contract with the Chinese delegation to build a metallurgical plant, while Va Stahl A.G. said it had signed a declaration of intent on a steelworks project.

Zulu king seeks broader appeal in S. Africa

By Marius Bosch
Reuters

DURBAN, South Africa — King Goodwill Zwelithini, titular head of South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus, is making a pitch for wider acceptability by opting for political neutrality.

Critics in the past accused King Zwelithini, a direct descendant of 19th century Zulu warrior Shaka, of being the political pawn of his uncle chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

But since the April all-race elections that brought black majority rule in South Africa, the king has increasingly distanced himself from Mr. Buthelezi and his Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

"It would not be at all surprising if the king wants to appear to be more neutral... On many occasions he smarted under that (Buthelezi's) treatment," University of Natal political scientist Alexander Johnstone said.

Bitter rivalry between Inkatha and President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) brought thousands of deaths during the years of apartheid — reform that led up to the elections, in which the ANC won a sweeping national victory.

Inkatha won a razor-thin majority in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal and relations remain rocky with the main ANC opposition in the region on which Mr. Buthelezi depends for his main political support.

In recent speeches, Mr. Buthelezi accused the ANC of trying to drive a wedge between himself and the king. The ANC has denied the charge, saying the Zulu king should be above party politics.

ANC spokesman Senzo Mchunu told Reuters the ANC had no intention of



Goodwill Zwelithini

claiming the king as its own.

"For the first time the king is on his own... There is no intention of the ANC to take him to our side," Mr. Mchunu said.

"His position is above politics and the honour of the royal family is based on

being neutral," said Mr. Mchunu, regional ANC secretary in Inkatha's powerbase in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The Zulus are the largest single ethnic group in South Africa's population of 40 million.

King Zwelithini, 45, was installed in 1971 as the

eighth Zulu monarch. Since then, he has lived under the shadow of Mr. Buthelezi, who headed the former KwaZulu homeland.

Mr. Buthelezi is traditional prime minister to the king, a position of considerable power and influence, which he claims through ancestry.

In 1979, the king was put under virtual house arrest and had his salary held back by the then nominally independent KwaZulu government after Mr. Buthelezi accused him of links with an Inkatha rival.

Until the April poll, King Zwelithini regularly appeared alongside Ms. Buthelezi at Inkatha political rallies thinly disguised as Zulu cultural events.

Late last month, he appeared in public with Mr. Buthelezi for the first time since the elections at a university graduation ceremony also attended by Mr. Mandela.

Since the installation of Mr. Mandela's government of national unity, the king's salary has been paid by Pretoria and his KwaZulu police guard replaced by members of the South African National Defence Force.

Mr. Mchunu said the amalgamation of KwaZulu with Natal province in post-apartheid South Africa freed King Zwelithini from the control of Mr. Buthelezi and KwaZulu government officials.

"He is on his own and is issuing statements that come from his head. Statements he writes himself," Mr. Mchunu added.

In an unusual departure, the king declined to read from a speech handed to him by Mr. Buthelezi at a rally following the university graduation ceremony and spoke off-the-cuff, sources close to the royal family said.

"It was quite a dramatic move," one source said.

Several members of the royal family have accused Mr. Buthelezi of trying to humiliate and blackmail King Zwelithini through unprecedented public revelations of the king's remuneration.

THE INDIAN SUB CONTINENT

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	May 1994	June 1994
Deutsche Mark	1.5380	1.5347
Swiss Franc	1.5965	1.6018
French Franc	1.3385	1.3430
Japanese Yen	5.4670	5.4787**
European Currency Unit	98.75	98.67
U.S. Dollar	1.1983	1.1963**

* USD Per ECU
** European Opening of 8:00 A.M. GMT

Macroeconomic Indicators

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.3100	4.6300	5.0000	5.6300
Deutsche Mark	4.1900	4.9400	5.1900	5.8800
Swiss Franc	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500	4.9400
French Franc	4.0000	8.0600	4.1900	4.4400
Japanese Yen	5.3100	5.4400	5.5600	5.8800
European Currency Unit	1.8100	1.8800	1.9400	2.1300
U.S. Dollar	5.7500	5.8100	6.0000	6.2500

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Deutsche Mark	1.0550	1.0600
Swiss Franc	0.4394	0.4315
French Franc	0.5121	0.5147
Japanese Yen	0.1255	0.1261
Dutch Guilder	0.6984	0.7019
Swedish Krona	0.3829	0.3846
Italian Lira	0.0433	0.0435

Belgian Franc

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040355	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3680
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1877
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7680	1.7820
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1877
Greek Drachma	0.2645	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3075	1.4215

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3838/48	Canadian dollar
	1.5972/82	Deutsche marks
	1.7912/22	Dutch guilders
	1.3398/08	Swiss francs
	32.90/94	Belgian francs
	5.4680/30	French francs
	1583.8/5.3	Italian lire
	98.98/08	Japanese yen
	7.8800/00	Swedish crowns
	6.9690/40	Norwegian crowns
	6.2620/70	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5370/80	
One ounce of gold	\$386.90/387.3	

China, Germany sign \$3.5b deals

BONN (AFP) — Chinese and German firms agreed Monday to do business worth a total \$3.5 billion, an official Chinese spokesman said on the first day of a visit to Germany by Chinese Premier Li Peng.

The Chinese government had also agreed to a request made by Chancellor Helmut Kohl on a visit to China last year to furnish a panda bear for Germany, and would provide a five-year-old female, Chinese spokesman Wu Jian-

min said. Contracts amounting to \$1 billion and letters of intent for a further \$2.5 billion worth in the domains of iron and steel, energy, chemicals and transport were signed, the foreign ministry spokesman said.

Both Siemens and BMW simultaneously announced major deals with Chinese firms.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Li had one-to-one talks Monday morning, and then a further 40 minutes in the presence of other officials, Mr. Wu said. Both sides described the talks as "open and friendly."

In his talks with the Chinese premier, the chancellor stressed China's key role in German government policy towards Asia and its desire for deeper, long-term cooperation, especially in the economic sphere.

Mr. Kohl also raised with the premier the question of human rights in China and stressed the importance attached to the matter in Germany, German government spokesman Dieter Vogel said.

Li Peng is regarded as having spearheaded the bloody 1989 crackdown on China's student- and worker-led pro-democracy movement, and his visit to Germany has aroused protest from human rights activists.

The two men agreed to go on talking on the question "in all mutual confidence," and Mr. Kohl said he welcomed

the premier's statement in Vienna that he and the Chinese government were prepared to discuss it on equal terms.

The Chinese premier arrived in Germany Sunday from Austria for a week-long visit to Germany, the principal stop on a three-nation European tour. He goes on to Romania.

Economic cooperation dominates the visit, and Li Peng arrived accompanied by some 150 Chinese economic experts and businessmen.

He and Mr. Kohl Monday opened an economic forum organized by German business leaders, and the chancellor has given a personal lead in encouraging German industrialists to exploit China's burgeoning free-market economy.

Germany is China's leading economic partner in Europe. Their total trade was nearly 23.4 billion marks (15 billion) in 1993, and according to the Chinese ministry spokesman, it was up by a year-on-year 41 per cent in the first quarter of 1994.

The chancellor stressed the German government's readiness to support modernization of the Chinese economy and the safeguarding of its reform course through greater cooperation and encouraging direct investment, the German government spokesman said.

Germany has offered to modernize China's railway system, and provide a high-speed link between Beijing and Shanghai.

Tourist resorts planned in Gaza

AMMAN (AFP) — The Palestine Company for Development and Investment (PCDI) is planning to build multi-million dollar high class beach resorts and hotels along the newly autonomous Gaza Strip, a member of the group said here Sunday.

"Gaza has a beautiful coastline that is clean and runs for about 30 kilometres and we plan to develop it by building several tourist resorts at a cost of 25 to 35 million dollars each," said Nabil Sarraf, treasurer of the development company created in 1993 by a group of mainly Palestinian businessmen.

The offshore company registered in Liberia has a capital of \$200 million and hopes to raise that amount to \$1 billion, Mr. Sarraf said, adding that the Gaza projects could begin by the end of the year.

He said the company plans to build a harbour in Gaza which "offers Palestinian territories and Jordan the only access to the Mediterranean."

The PCDI would have 49 per cent controlling interest in the Gaza projects and Palestinian investors would own the remaining 51 per cent through limited companies PCDI plans to create, Mr. Sarraf said.

He said in the short-term PCDI would focus its activities on building hotels and tourist resorts in Gaza along with high-class residential neighbourhoods in order to attract Arab businessmen and investors.

"We need at least 15,000 hotel rooms within five years because the lack of accommodations is delaying the arrival of businessmen and investors who have no place to stay," he said.

He added that PCDI is currently negotiating with the Arab Council of Tourism based in Jerusalem to try to define the land area for each project.

The council includes representatives from the hotel, restaurant and tourism industry.

Mr. Sarraf said in the long-run PCDI plans to build industrial zones in the new autonomous regions in order to boost production and reinforce the Palestinian economy.

According to studies done by PCDI, the Palestinian economy in the next four to five years will grow by 10 per cent as will the tourist industry, which will see a rise from the current two million tourists to

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Romania knocks out Argentina, moves into World Cup quarterfinals

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Argentines marched to the final of three of the previous four World Cup finals. This time, according to Diego Maradona, they had their legs sawn off.

Beaten 3-2 by Romania in the most thrilling game of the tournament so far, two tie list Argentina did not even make it to the quarterfinal.

"Just to think that we were eliminated I feel like crying," said veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri, who was on the 1986 team that won the trophy.

"We were more aggressive in the game but Romania scored three goals and that's what counts."

Ilie Dumitrescu and midfielder Gheorghe Hagi terminated the Argentine downfall as Romania reached its first World Cup quarterfinal in a thrilling match packed with goalsmouth action and outstanding moves from both teams.

Gabriel Batistuta scored for Argentina from the penalty spot and Abel Balbo's 75th minute strike for 3-2 set up a tense finish.

Maradona, banned from the World Cup after a positive drug test, watched the game from the TV commentary box and several times threw up his hands in emotional displays of frustration.

"There is nothing that can justify this," Maradona said after the match. "This isn't the team I left... the happy team, the knowing team."

He said his ban has "saved off our legs, not just mine, but of all Argentines."

Dumitrescu's goals came in the 11th and 18th minutes while Hagi's came after 58. Romania now will meet Sweden in the quarterfinals July 10 at Stanford.

"This is the greatest moment in Romania's soccer history," said Romanian coach Anghel Iordănescu. "Perhaps, this is the greatest moment for Romania since the 1989 anti-communist revolution."

The tragedy for Argentina was that it had both Maradona and Claudio Caniggia, another standout player, watching and unable to take part. In Caniggia's case, it was because of a toe injury.

The game was only 50 seconds old when Balbo scored in a long-range shot that Romanian Florin Prunea clutched low in front of goal.

And in the eighth minute, Batistuta tried to surprise Prunea with a powerful, swerving drive the keeper saved at the foot of the near post.

Argentina should have gone ahead in the 10th minute after a move the watching Maradona would have been proud of.

Diego Simeone swerved and dribbled past three Romanians to move into a shooting range and set up the chance for Balbo, who was unable to hit the goal.

The ball was quickly watched the other end where Argentina conceded a free kick that led to Romania's first goal.

Dumitrescu had plenty of chances to aim at but fired scurrying, angled right foot from 35 metres that flew past Prunea into the far corner of the net.

Argentina levelled five minutes later from the penalty spot.

The lively Batistuta turned two Romanian defenders wide on the left and was heading for goal when one of



Argentine player Gabriel Batistuta (9) is comforted by assistant coach Carlos Merlo (2ndR) and trainer Ricardo Echavarría (L) after Argentina lost its World Cup match against Romania 3-2 at the Rose Bowl. Argentine head coach Alfio Basile is at right. Below Romanian captain Gheorghe Hagi celebrates after his teammate Ilie Dumitrescu scored the first of his two goals (AFP photos)



them, Daniel Prodan, pushed him over.

Batistuta took the penalty had the chance to take hold of the game, they were behind again.

Hagi sliced a pass between two defenders to the in-running Dumitrescu, who side-footed the ball first-time between Islas and the near post.

"I am happy that everything I'm doing here is turning out perfect," Hagi said. "We're a very strong and well-prepared team which can go far in this tournament."

The Romanians went for Argentina's throat with a series of moves that would have brought more goals but the brilliance of goalkeeper Islas blocked them.

He stuck out a foot to block a goalbound shot from Gheorghe Popescu and dived to his right to fist away a powerful shot from Ion Lupescu.

At the other end, Batistuta fired wide of the target from a good position in front of goal and then Balbo flung himself at a right wing cross to send a low, diving header just past the post.

Maradona, watching from the TV commentators zone, flung his arms up in the air in despair.

A minute before halftime, Hagi split open the Argentine defence and Dumitrescu should have made it 3-1. After rounding the goalkeeper and shooting goalwards, he could only watch as his misdirected effort was cleared off the line by Fernando Caceres.

A minute after halftime, Prunea produced a blocking

save to keep out Batistuta's shot-range shot after Argentina had found a hole in Romania's defence.

The Argentinians kept pressing for an equaliser but tended to try and walk the ball into goal instead of shooting from further out.

And, in the 58th minute, they fell further behind.

Argentina lost possession in Romania's half and Dumitrescu latched onto the ball.

With the Argentinians chasing back and struggling to close the gaping holes in their defences, Dumitrescu held on to the ball until Hagi arrived from midfield.

The two-goal striker sent the ball outside to Hagi who hit the

ball first time past Islas into the net.

Fifteen minutes from the end of this pulsating game, Argentina scored again.

Caceres moved forward to fire a 30-metre shot that whistled through the Romanian defence and was too hot for Prunea to handle.

The ball squirmed out of his hands and Balbo was there first to bulge the net with his follow-up shot from five metres.

"It was a very difficult game," said Argentinian coach Alfio Basile who agreed to answer only two questions from reporters.

"I'm happy with the performance of my team. We lost with dignity."

Romanians celebrate World Cup victory

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians thronged the streets of central Bucharest early Monday in jubilant and noisy scenes to celebrate Romania's 3-2 win against Argentina in a World Cup second-round match.

"Farewell Argentina, Sweden you're next to go," the crowds shouted. Romania take on Sweden in the quarter-finals in San Francisco next Sunday.

The Bucharest crowds hugged policemen and commandeer cars and trucks, draping them in huge tricolour flags, acclaiming: "Glory to them, glory to the (Romanian) tricolour team."

The crowds sang and danced to the rhythm of the local two-step dance "hora" as firecrackers went off with

deafening noise. Witnesses estimated the size of the crowd at several hundred thousands. A police figure was not immediately available.

Local radio commentators reported with gusto the street fiesta, saying the joyous crowds in Bucharest's central victory square was "ten times more than those who went out on Romania's streets during the 1989 revolution."

Bucharest police chief general Nicolae Nitu, out with his troops to keep an eye on the crowds, said: "We are here in the street to savour the sweet happiness of this victory."

Similar street celebrations were reported from several cities across the Balkan country.

Italy's coach Sacchi wary of Nigerian speed and stamina

FOXBORO, Massachusetts (R) — Italy, afraid of succumbing to Nigerian speed and stamina, will play their fittest possible eleven against the African champions in the World Cup second round Tuesday.

"We're looking for the players who can give us the most physically because this is where the Nigerians are strongest," coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

"We're playing opponents who are both fast and have great stamina," added Sacchi, who called the Nigerians supermen.

Nigeria, by contrast, are relaxed and confident they can overcome the three times world champions at the Foxboro Stadium south of Boston, especially if they can make an early breakthrough.

Sacchi said that at this stage of the tournament, which follows a long and arduous league season, players were beginning to tire.

He has only 19 to choose from. Captain Franco Baresi and forward Alberigo Evani are both injured, while goal-

keeper Gianluca Pagliuca remains suspended.

Sacchi, still looking for a convincing performance from his side who scraped into the second round in third place in Group E, is waiting on the fitness of key midfielder Dino Baggio.

Should Baggio fail to make it, 1990 World Cup veteran Roberto Donadoni or Antonio Conte of Juventus will take his place.

But Sacchi may also opt for Donadoni instead of the tireless but less skilful Nicola Berti if he feels the AC Milan midfielder's control and creativity are better assets against Nigeria.

At the back, Paolo Maldini looks set to step into the central defender's position of Milan teammate Baresi that he filled so convincingly in the European Cup final.

Up front, striker Daniele Massaro could win his 13th cap alongside Roberto Baggio after the Milan veteran scored Italy's goal as a substitute in the 1-1 draw with Mexico in their last first-round match.

Nigeria's Dutch coach Clemens Westerhof believes the key to success over the Italians is an early goal.

"Italy have always played good football under pressure and they are very good at closing up their defence when they go into the lead," he said.

"That's why it will be very important for us to score first."

Nigeria can score from almost any position given space. Their six goals in the tournament have come from five different players.

The Africans will be at full strength after full backs Ben Iroha and Augustine Eguavoen both recovered from injury.

Westerhof hinted they would play after Nigeria missed their attacking skills in their last Group D match, a 2-0 win over Greece.

Veteran defender Stephan Keshi is expected to make way for Iroha, who has been out since Nigeria's opening 3-0 victory against Bulgaria.

Eguavoen, who injured an ankle in the 2-1 loss to



Today's matches

Nigeria vs. Italy in Foxboro, Mass., at 20:05 Amman time. Mexico vs. Bulgaria in East Rutherford, N.J., at 23:35 Amman time.

Argentina, should reclaim his place from Mike Emenalo. Probable teams:

Italy: 12-Luca Marchegiani 8-Roberto Mussi, 4-Alessandro Costacurta, 5-Paolo Maldini, 3-Antonio Benarrivo, 14-Nicola Berti, 11-Demetrio Albertini, 13-Dino Baggio, 20-Giuseppe Signori, 15-Daniele Massaro, 10-Roberto Baggio.

Nigeria: 1-Peter Rufai 2-Augustine Eguavoen, 6-Chidi Nwanu, 5-Uche Okechukwu, 3-Ben Iroha 15-Sunday Olieh, 12-Samson Siasia, 14-Daniel Amokachi 7-Finidi George, 9-Rashidi Yekini, 11-Emmanuel Amunike.

Referee: Arturo Brizio Carter (Mexico).

Confident Mexicans eye quarterfinals

EAST RUTHERFORD (R) — Surprise group winners Mexico are confident they can overcome suspension-hit Bulgaria Tuesday to set up a World Cup quarterfinal with champions Germany.

"It's true that we prefer Bulgaria rather than Nigeria or Argentina but we aren't going to underestimate anyone," said colourful Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos.

"Even with three players suspended they remain very dangerous and we shall have to watch out for flashes of genius from (Hristo) Stoichkov," he added.

The top striker was said to be suffering from back trouble Sunday but insisted he was sure of playing.

The two teams met in the 1986 World Cup at the same second round stage, host nation Mexico winning 2-0 before going out on penalties to

West Germany in the quarter-finals.

The Mexicans approach the match confidently after recovering from an opening game loss to Norway to head preliminary Group E, which also included Ireland and Italy.

"Why shouldn't we go all the way to the final? We've come through the toughest World Cup group," Campos said.

Bulgaria suffered a 3-0 drubbing by Nigeria in their opening Group D match to extend their miserable record in the World Cup finals to played 17, lost 11, drawn six.

But they finally tasted victory by thrashing Greece 4-0 and upset everyone's travel plans when they defeated Argentina 2-0 last Thursday in the wake of the Diego Maradona doping scandal to clinch second place in the

group.

That memorable win over the Argentines was secured at the cost of three suspensions — Trifon Ivanov and Zlatko Yankov picking up their second yellow cards of the tournament while Tzanko Tzvetanov was sent off.

The absence of Ivanov and Tzvetanov leaves coach Dimitar Penev to reshuffle his defence and he is likely to call up the experienced Nikolai Dliev and Ilian Kiryakov to fill in. Daniel Borimirov, dropped after the Nigerian defeat, should replace Yankov in midfield.

Mexico are deprived of the suspended Joaquin sel Olmo in defence and are set to recall Ramon Ramirez in his place. Ramirez starred in Mexico's Copa America campaign last year when his country lost out in the final to Argentina.

Veteran Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez — famous for the somersaults with which he celebrates his goals — has not been picked for the last two games and coach Miguel Mejia Baron is likely to leave him on the bench again.

Bulgaria have never been past the second round in the World Cup but they have rarely had such a potent attack as formed by Stoichkov, Emil Kostadinov and the veteran Nasko Sirakov.

"I wouldn't swap them for any other strikers in the world," said Penev after the win over Argentina.

Bulgaria and Mexico last met in January, playing out a 1-1 friendly draw in California. The Bulgarians scored from a penalty conceded after Campos had lost the ball on one of his risky sorties up the field.

Saudi team bows out

DALLAS (AP) — This time the Saudis were not a surprise.

The Dutch had to rally the Belgians never recovered; but the Swedes were prepared.

"We knew before the match that it was going to be a very difficult task for us," Swedish coach Tommy Svensson said after the team's 3-1 second-round World Cup victory Sunday.

"I don't think other teams have been so serious about Saudi Arabia as we have."

Dutch players shyly and quietly admitted maybe they took Saudi Arabia too lightly — falling behind and then having to rally with an 86th-minute goal to win 2-1 in the first round.

The Belgian defence — four of them — looked almost nonchalant as Saeed Alowairan waltzed through from midfield to score the only goal in a 1-0 Saudi victory in their final first-round game.

For Saudi Arabia's Argentine coach Jorge Solari, who took over the team in March, there was no time to alter tactics. They would have to go with what worked against the Dutch, the Moroccan and the Belgians. But then the



A Saudi Arabian photographer prays during halftime of the round of 16 match between Sweden and Saudi Arabia. Sweden won the game 3-1 (AFP photo)

Swedes, and the rest of the world, had seen those games and their players and play was not surprising anymore.

"Tactically we tried to make a simple plan... There was no time and it was necessary to play in the same way the team played (in their first-round matches)," Solari said.

"We had two ways for planning the game of today. One was to try to make the same tactics as in the other three games. The other plan was to do the other tactics. Finally we thought to do the similar tactics as we did against Holland, Morocco and Belgium."

But the Swedes had three games worth to study the Saudis — and they were

ready.

Martin Dahlin gave the Swedes the lead in the sixth minute, forcing a change of tactics by the Saudis.

Unlike all three previous matches when the Saudis scored first, now they were forced to come from behind and had to push forward instead of sit on defence and use superior speed to counterattack.

When you are behind, counterattacking is not as effective.

Solari sent in offensive-minded substitutes Fahd Al Ghashayan in the 55th minute and Khaled Al Muwallid in the 63rd.

Al Ghashayan's insertion finally resulted in a goal, but it was not enough.

Cup fans range from princes to governor

DALLAS (AP) — The heads of FIFA have called the Cotton Bowl home since the World Cup began, so they were more than happy to host a few heads of state at Sunday's second-round match between Sweden and Saudi Arabia.

The crowd of 60,277 included Prince Faisal Bin Fahd and Prince Sultan Bin Fahd, sons of Saudi leader King Fahd and Prince Bandar, the country's ambassador to the United States.

The head of the state of Texas also had a seat. Gov. Ann Richards added the World Cup to her list of sporting events this year, which also included watching the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl and the Houston Rockets in the NBA finals.

Also in the stands for Sweden's 3-1 victory was FIFA President Joao Havelange and Joseph Blatter, the group's general secretary.

The noon kickoff drew a late-arriving crowd. Those who came early hardly seemed to realise who was playing — Mexican fans were everywhere. Most seemed just happy to experience the international spectacle.

Of course, the loudest noise was made by the Swedish and Saudi fans.

Swede supporters were easily identifiable by their gold-and-blue outfits or the even more obvious plastic-borne Viking hats. They also were loudly critical when their offence wasted scoring chances with bad passes.

Saudi fans turned several sections into seas of green as they rooted on their upstart squad.

At the end of the match, the Swedish fans were seen celebrating their victory.

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Referee admits mistake over penalty decision

ZURICH (R) — Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger admitted Monday he was mistaken in not awarding a penalty to Belgium during their 3-2 World Cup defeat by Germany Saturday.

Belgian Football Federation officials have slammed the decision in the 70th minute of the second round match and called on soccer's ruling body FIFA to send Roethlisberger home and ban him from refereeing another international.

In a letter to Swiss tabloid Blick Roethlisberger said that he had watched a recording of the match on television later Saturday and saw then he had been mistaken in not awarding a penalty after Belgian striker Josip Weber was brought down by German defender Thomas Helmer.

"I denied mistakenly. The Belgians were right to claim a penalty," wrote Roethlisberger, 43 and officiating his second World Cup finals.

"On the field I said the scene from a distance of about 25 metres. At the crucial moment (German midfielder Andreas) Brehme and Helmer blocked my view. I had to decide in a split second. It was an intuitive decision," Roethlisberger added.

He said he was not trying to excuse his mistakes.

Belgian officials said the decision was the turning point of the game. Had the penalty been awarded Helmer would have been sent off under tough new rules aimed at preventing tackles from behind.

The referee, who had hoped to be chosen to officiate at the World Cup final July 17 in Los Angeles, said his chances were now slim. He said he was flying to Dallas to hear from FIFA Wednesday which referees would be selected for the tournament.

"I am prepared to have to pack my cases on Wednesday and to travel home," he said.

Vogts: Haessler transfer fee too high

CHICAGO (R) — Germany coach Bert Vogts attacked Italian side Roma on Sunday for what he called the "slavery" of his midfielder Thomas Haessler and called on FIFA to negotiate his release from the club.

Haessler, one of the most impressive players in Germany's World Cup victory over Belgium on Saturday, has not had his contract renewed by Roma.

But Roma, anxious to recoup some of the cash spent on a 15-player close-season spending spree, have slapped a transfer fee of at least \$5 million on his head.

Vogts said: "What is happening with Thomas Haessler at Roma has to do with slavery. I think FIFA should intervene. You can't tie up a player and say eight to 10 million marks (\$5-\$6 million) are needed and there are no other deals."

"FIFA or UEFA have to do something to find a solution."

The diminutive Haessler's crosses and free-kick expertise have been crucial in guiding Germany into the quarter-finals.

In the first three games it was Haessler who provided the inspiration for all of striker Juergen Klinsmann's four goals. Ironically, Klinsmann,



Thomas Haessler (left) and other team members relax during a training session Sunday in Hinsdale, IL. (AFP photo)

Germany's top performer here, is also having problems leaving his French club Monaco because of a high transfer fee.

Few Bundesliga teams would afford Haessler at the present price. Bayern Munich, the league's richest club, is unlikely to be interested after making several key expensive signings.

"I am a bit disappointed that no Bundesliga side has managed to rip him away from Roma," Vogts said. "The way he is playing here would enrich the league."

Haessler said he had tried to forget about his club problems and concentrate on the World Cup.

"I do not feel any burden. I have tried to play here without thinking about anything else," he said. "So far I have been successful."

"Roma have a new president and he has promised the fans that they will win the championship. They have bought new players and I would be one of seven foreigners and have no chance of playing."

"If a Bundesliga side said they were interested I would be happy to listen."

The policy of Italian clubs buying up handfuls of foreigners and only being allowed to play three of them at one time has often been criticised outside of the country.

Netherlands beat Ireland, advance to round of eight

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Inter Milan stars Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk fired the Netherlands into the World Cup quarterfinal for the first time since 1978 Monday in a 2-0 victory over Ireland.

Bergkamp slid home the first in the 11th minute and Jonk took advantage of a embarrassing blunder by veteran Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner with the second four minutes before half time.

Bergkamp's goal from an assist by Mark Overmars came when the Dutch exposed a weakness in the left side of the Irish defence. Jonk's goal was a 25-metre strike that Bonner should have held, the ball sliding through his fingers.

There could have been even more for the Dutch, who created a series of chances in the first hour of a game played in 33 degree Celsius (92 Fahrenheit) heat in the Citrus Bowl.

The Irish tried to hit back in the final half hour and also had some chances, but their shooting accuracy let them down.

For the second game in a

row, Ireland's Steve Staunton had the chance to strike for goal in the opening minute from a free kick wide on the right.

Against Norway, the Irish midfielder fired too high. This time his left-foot shot struck Dutchman Frank Rijkaard and flew over the net.

In the eighth minute, Peter van Vossen got past Terry Phelan on the right and sent over a low cross but Overmars, with a clear shot on goal, miscued.

In the 11th minute came a similar move and a goal.

The left side of the Irish defense again was exposed as Phelan's weak back header to Phil Babb was intercepted by Overmars. He outpaced Babb and slid the ball in front of goal and Bergkamp.

Chased by Paul McGrath, got there first to prod the ball home from 8 metres.

As Ireland went in search of an equaliser, Roy Keane produced a left-foot shot that flew too high.

But the Dutch looked in impressive form going forward especially down the right side.

Overmars again got past

Phelan and centred to Van Vossen, whose goal-bound first time shot was blocked by McGrath.

Then Bergkamp rounded Babb by the line, crossed over the head of Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner and Rijkaard was just too late to turn it into an empty net.

Four minutes before half time came a nightmare goal for goalkeeper Bonner.

Jonk slipped easily past the goalkeeper to move into shooting position and let fly from 25 metres. The shot was straight at Bonner but the ball slipped through the keeper's fingers and into the net.

Ray Houghton, scorer of Ireland's winner against Italy in round one, had a chance to pull a game back when he met a looping centre from Staunton in the 53rd minute, but headed too high from only 6 metres.

Frank de Boer miscued an overhead kick in front of the Irish goal after Bergkamp had flicked on a corner and then Jonk tested Bonner with another long-range effort from 30 metres. This time the keeper held it safely.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tennis legend Hoad dies

MALAGA, Spain (AFP) — Australian tennis legend Lew Hoad died Sunday night at his home in Spain, aged 59. Hoad, one of the open era greats who won three majors in a row in 1956, reportedly died of a heart attack. He was also suffering from leukemia. He leaves a wife, Jenny, two daughters and a son. He ran a tennis school in Malaga, where he had a home, for 30 years. Hoad, winner at the Australian, French and Wimbledon tournaments, was deprived of an historic Grand Slam by compatriot and doubles partner Ken Rosewall, who beat him in the U.S. Open. He also played in Australia's famous Davis Cup final victory of 1953 over the United States, alongside Rosewall. The two, schooled by coach Harry Hopman, were dubbed "the boy wonders." Hoad played in another Davis Cup triumph two years later, again over the United States. He won eight Grand Slam doubles titles including Wimbledon in 1953, 1955 and 1956, the U.S. in 1956 and the French in 1953. Constant back trouble eventually forced him into retirement after he turned professional in 1957.

Gustafsson out of Davis Cup

STOCKHOLM (R) — World 12th ranked Magnus Gustafsson will not be fit to join Sweden's Davis Cup tennis squad in their quarter-final with France. Gustafsson has an inflamed and damaged right shoulder. Non-playing captain Jonte Sjogren said Monday: "Magnus is not on my list." Sjogren confirmed Stefan Edberg and Magnus Larsson would play the singles matches in the tie which is being held in Cannes from July 15-17.

2 Argentines arrested at Rose Bowl

PASADENA (R) — Two Argentine fans face deportation from the United States after being arrested when fighting broke out following their team's 3-2 World Cup defeat by Romania at the Rose Bowl Sunday. Twenty-one other people were arrested for ticket-touting, one for being drunk and one for trying to steal a beer off the head of a security guard at the match. A small fight started behind one of the goals at the end of the second-round match which saw Argentina eliminated from the finals. Empty water bottles, sticks and beakers were thrown at police and security officers, but no one was hurt in the incident.

Van Poppel overshadows Abdu

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, France (AFP) — Dutch sprinter Jean-Paul van Poppel outshone Djamiludin Abdurapov here Monday to win the second stage of the Tour of France after a mass sprint. Abdurapov, nicknamed the "Tashkent terror," was looking for his second in a row but he angrily waved his hand in the air and gave up in the final metres before the line when he realised Van Poppel and German Olaf Ludwig were too strong. For Ludwig, this was his second runner-up place in a row, while Van Poppel, 31, now boasts nine Tour de France stages wins after the 203km run between Roubaix and Boulogne-sur-Mer.

GOREN. BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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THE LOSER VANISHES

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH ♠ Q 6 4 2
♥ A 5
♦ 8 4
♣ K 6 4 2
EAST ♠ A 2
♥ K 7 5 4 2
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ 10 8 5
SOUTH ♠ J 10 9 8 7 5
♥ J 6
♦ K Q
♣ A Q J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.
If you look at the North-South hands alone, it would seem that, after the opening lead, declarer is destined to lose two trumps and a trick in each red suit. Yet one declarer in a team match succeeded in making a lower discard and the defenders were helpless to prevent it.

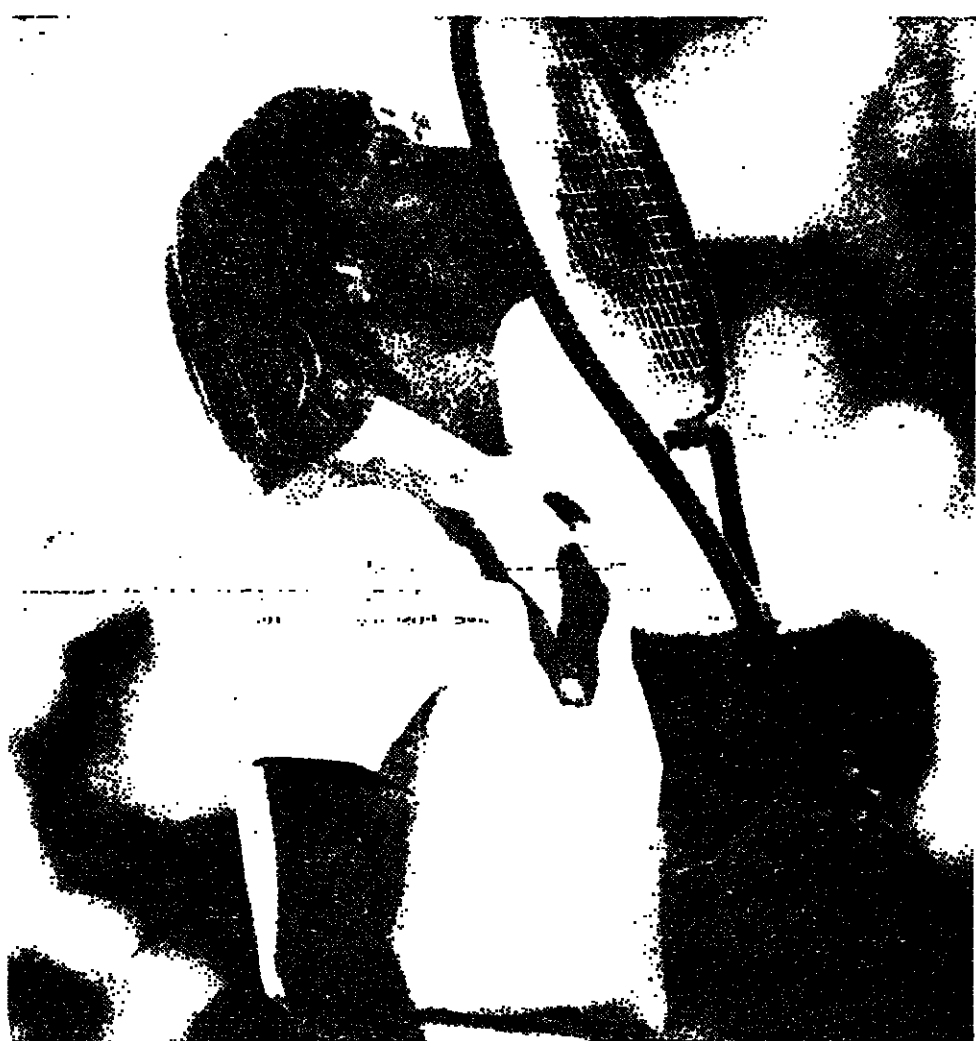
At each table the final contract was four spades by South, reached on identical auctions. Both Norths

judged their hand worth a limit raise of South's opening bid of one spade and both Souths had an easy acceptance because of the sixth trump. One declarer took the opening heart lead with dummy's ace and, in the hope of coaxing an honor from second hand and crashing the other honor, elected to lead the queen of spades. Unfortunately, it was East who held the singleton honor, so the declarers quickly took their four tricks.

The other declarer realized there was a legitimate line of play for the contract. All it required was to find the trick in dummy with the ace, but followed up by cashing the ace and queen of clubs. Next, the jack of clubs was overtaken with the king and, when both defenders followed, the contract was almost home.

The 13th club was led from the table. East, unwilling to ruff with the ace of trumps, pitched a heart as did declarer, and West ruffed cheaply. However, when declarer ruffed the heart return and led a trump, the ace and king came tumbling down on the same trick and the contract was in the bag.

Navratilova may never play again



Martina Navratilova

LONDON (AFP) — Martina Navratilova made her emotional farewell to Wimbledon at the weekend — and then hinted she may never play again.

The 37-year-old left-hander, whose dream of a tenth Wimbledon singles crown was shattered in a three-set defeat inflicted in a dramatic final by Spanish newcomer Conchita Martinez, had already made it clear she intended to retire at the end of the year.

But now she may be ready to call it a day even sooner. Her coach Craig Kardon admitted after Saturday's defeat: "I have the feeling Martina doesn't really want to play on and she may stop right here."

Navratilova hinted as much when she said: "What a way to go. I didn't quite make it but I gave it all I had. I have no regrets."

Referring to the championships where she made her debut in 1973, the former world champion revealed: "It has been like a love affair that grows. I loved Wimbledon from the first time I knew about it. I feel all those champions dead and alive, when I'm out there. There is no place like it. "The crowd have been fantastic. You just feel the warmth from them. It's pre-

ty special. Over the years they've gotten to know me pretty well. It is like playing in front of a whole bunch of friends."

But the left-handed Czech-born player, who brought a new attacking dimension to the women's game and who has certainly earned her place among the sport's legends, has not always been everybody's favourite.

Her affairs with women, her "marriage" and then costly legal "divorce" from Judy Nelson, her stance on gay-rights issues, made her a permanent target for the British tabloid newspapers.

But it did not stop her winning the championships nine times and reaching twelve finals.

Her first singles win came in 1978 when she beat Chris Evert.

The victory came three years after her defection to the West. Up until 1975 she had been a promising product of communist regime's tennis programme and was being ferried round the then-Czechoslovakia to tournaments on her step-father Miroslav's small motorbike.

She went on to beat arch-rival Evert in four more Wimbledon finals, while other players who had to accept runners-up honours were Andrea Jaeger, Hana Mandlikova, Steffi Graf and Zina Garrison.

Navratilova, whose parents still live in the Czech Republic and whose sister Jana is a dentist in Germany, became an American citizen in 1981.

Her Wimbledon record remains astonishing and she has lost only 13 times in 131 matches.

She also added seven doubles and two mixed-doubles crowns to her singles titles. Her overall career record shows 167 singles and 163 doubles titles and she has won 18 Grand Slam singles championships.

She reigned as world number-one for 332 weeks and has been consistently in the top-five for over two decades.

Navratilova has recently turned her hand to writing detective novels against a tennis background.

"It's fun to write fiction and you can't be sued," she smiled, adding that she has no firm plans for her immediate future.

But she has made no secret that she would like to find an active role in the game and said this week: "I'd be interested in doing anything with the youngsters. I don't know about right away — but certainly down the road."

Tipped as a future Federation Cup captain, Navratilova said: "I certainly want to be involved in the development of tennis in the United States."

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	JURASSIC PARK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Revenge Of The Nerds Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' PERFECT WORLD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' MY STEP MOTHER IS AN ALIEN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Bob Hoskins in Super Mario Bros Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues. days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 self-rule ministers to miss swearing-in

TUNIS (R) — Three senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials who are members of the Palestinian self-rule authority will miss Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony in Jericho, officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis said. The three had not been officially informed that the swearing-in would take place on Tuesday and would in any case have no time to get there, they added. "It was planned that we go to the self-rule area and be sworn-in there after the official farewell ceremony scheduled for this week in Tunis," Samir Ghoshe, one of the three, told Reuters. Mr. Ghoshe holds the labour portfolio. The other two still in Tunis are Yasser Abed Rabbo, who has the culture and information portfolio, and Ahmad Couriea, who is better known as Abu Ala' and who has the economy and trade portfolio. Mr. Arafat, who arrived in the Gaza Strip on Friday, is due to visit Paris on Wednesday and then return to Tunis for an official farewell ceremony tentatively planned for July 7.

Mahdi released, disowns alleged plot

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has been released from 13 days' detention and disassociated himself from an alleged anti-government plot by his Umma party, Sudanese television said. Dr. Mahdi late Sunday read a statement on television in which he said he underwent interrogation for six days following his arrest on June 20. Three of his senior aides were arrested a month earlier. Dr. Mahdi said the first time he heard of the plot for which he was held responsible was after his arrest and interrogation. He said during the interrogation he was shown confessions by his arrested aides Hammad Bagadi, Abdul Rahman Farah and Saifuddin Saeed. The three men had confessed to contacts with the Egyptian consul in Khartoum who had been plotting to carry out attacks on key installations and personalities, Dr. Mahdi said. Dr. Mahdi said he has expressed his opposition to the government in ways other than the violence of urban guerrilla warfare and rejected assassination and sabotage as contrary to Islamic teachings and Sudanese character.

Iraq to execute antiquities smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq has brought in the death penalty for antiquities smugglers, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday. The agency said those convicted of smuggling archaeological finds would either be executed or imprisoned for life.

Split in Sudan rebel group ahead of talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — A key commander of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) United has quit the movement, after accusing the faction's leader Riek Machar of dictatorship and poor leadership. Commander Arok Thon Arok, SPLA-United secretary for internal affairs and public security, told a press conference here on Monday that he was forced to quit the movement because of dictatorial tendencies had crept back into the faction, which split from John Garang's mainstream SPLA over similar accusations. Accusing Mr. Machar of running the movement single-handedly with junior officers, and ignoring the interim national executive committee and the national liberation council, Dr. Arok described the SPLA-United movement as "a ship sailing without a rudder" and squarely blamed the faction's leader for the new development. He was particularly bitter about the recent sacking of SPLA-United foreign affairs secretary Lam Akol and alleged recent arrests by Mr. Machar of nine of his commanders, including secretary for information John Luk Jok, and appealed to the international community and Amnesty International to pressure Mr. Machar for their immediate release.

Anti-drug conference opens in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Drug trafficking is growing in the newly-independent Central Asian countries, currently a chosen route for opium-derived narcotics from Afghanistan destined for European markets, Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati warned here Monday. Speaking at the opening session of the Interpol conference on fighting drugs in the Middle East and Central Asia, Mr. Besharati said new routes had been opened between northern Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics to enable the traffickers to "expand their trade in the region and world." Officials from nearly 40 countries are taking part in the three-day conference which is aimed at exploring ways of boosting cooperation between police forces in the region on fighting drugs, notably the exchange of information on traffickers. The sitting, jointly sponsored by Interpol and Iranian police, also seeks to study joint ways of using the income from drug seizures for anti-drug programme. Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall also warned of "new challenges" posed by the emergence of criminal networks in Central Asia and Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Cyprus murder trial delayed

NICOSIA (R) — A court on Monday adjourned until July 7 the trial of two Cypriot men charged with kidnapping, raping and murdering a young Swedish woman whose body was dug out of a rubbish tip last November. The assize court in Nicosia issued its decision after lawyers for Antonis Prokopios Kitas, 28, nicknamed "Al Capone," and Michaelakis Thoma Iacovides, 36, a taxi driver, argued that their clients had already been driven by the mass media. "How can we expect a fair trial when all mass media have already found them guilty? They've never given them a chance to defend themselves," Mr. Kitas's lawyer, Michael Pissas, told Reuters. The decomposed body of Christina Margareta Constantines, 28, the wife of a Cypriot disco club owner and mother of two, was dug out of a rubbish tip on the southern outskirts of Nicosia on Nov. 17.

UAE seizes two Iranian boats

TEHRAN (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) coastguards have seized two Iranian boats carrying passengers trying to enter the country illegally, the official news agency IRNA said here Monday. On Saturday a boat sailing on UAE waters in the Persian Gulf was held with its 24 passengers and crew. IRNA said quoting UAE officials, without giving further details. Several days earlier a speed carrying five Iranians trying to enter the UAE illegally was also stopped. The UAE has stepped up surveillance along its coastline after a dramatic increase in illegal immigrants mostly Asians searching for work in the oil-rich Gulf country. IRNA said the UAE had increased its coastline monitoring since July 1 in a bid to stop the smuggling of goods and people between the UAE and Iran. The UAE is one of Tehran's main trading partners and a large Iranian business community lives within its territory.

German press to print Palestinian passports

BERLIN (AFP) — The German government press is to print passports and identity cards for some one million Palestinians living in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, a spokesman said Monday. The documents are expected to be ready for the autumn. Joachim Schulz-Heisel of the Berlin-based press said. According to Mr. Schulz-Heisel, the contract was awarded to the federal German government printing press after long talks with the representative in Germany of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abdullah Frangi.

Protestant leader murdered in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The pastor at a small Iranian Protestant church was shot dead here last week in mysterious circumstances, the second Protestant leader murdered this year, his relatives said Monday.

Tedhis Mikhaelian, pastor at the Protestant Evangelical Church of Tehran, disappeared last Wednesday in the Iranian capital and his body was found on Saturday, church officials said.

The pastor of another Protestant church in Iran, the Assembly of God's Haik Hovsepian, was murdered in Tehran in January.

Police contacted by AFP confirmed the killing but provided no details.

Mikhaelian, 62, was killed by two bullets, one in the head and another in the chest, his relatives told AFP.

They said the pastor had left home on Wednesday afternoon in his car, but never returned.

Relatives notified the police of Mikhaelian's disappearance on Wednesday night, but received no answer. They said they discovered his body at the Tehran Morgue on Saturday morning after they went there to enquire.

Police refused to disclose the place where the body had been found for reasons they could not divulge at the present time or give any other details, but said they had not been able to find the car.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) blamed Tehran Monday for the murder.

NCRI president and leader of Mujahadeen-e-Khalq Masoud Rajavi strongly condemned the "criminal assassination" of Mikhaelian blaming it on Iranian authorities.

In a statement received in Nicosia, Mr. Rajavi called on "the international community to take immediate measures against the continuing crimes of the ruling mullahs against the people of Iran, including the followers of Christianity."

He charged Tehran "perpetrated this heinous crime just a few days after their horrific crime of exploding a bomb at Imam Reza's shrine and the massacre of Muslim worshippers."

Tehran has accused the Iraqi-based Mujahadeen of the bloody bomb attack in the northeastern city of Mashhad which killed 24 people and wounded 70 more in June. But the Mujahadeen has strongly denied any involvement.

Relatives said Mikhaelian enjoyed "good relations" with the authorities in Iran and had been asked to teach at Tehran University and a theological school at the holy city of Qom in central Iran.

The Evangelical Protestant Church has a following of some 2,000 people in Iran, according to members, and has close links to the Assembly of God. There are a total of six Protestant denominations in the country claiming a total of 10,000 to 15,000 followers.

Officials at the Evangelical Church said earlier that Mikhaelian, an Iranian Armenian, was a successor to Hovsepian.

The Assembly of God leader, Hovsepian, was murdered in the southern suburbs of the capital on Jan. 20, a day after he was abducted while travelling by car to Tehran airport.

Police said it had arrested a suspect a few days after the murder, promising to shed light on the case which triggered reactions from Western countries.

They said a special commission had been formed to investigate the issue, but the results have not yet been made public.

The relatives of Hovsepian said his death was connected to his campaign to alert the world community to the case of Mehdi Dibaj, detained for nine years and recently sentenced to death, according to the Assembly of God, for having converted to Christianity.

Mr. Dibaj was freed on bail on January 15 following international pressure, particularly from the Vatican and other European countries, including France.

A Iranian leader meanwhile charged that extremist Sunni Muslims may have been involved in the attack on the Shiite shrine in an attempt to sour relations between the two Muslim sects.

At least one held with gun in Gaza

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police detained at least one man in a car on suspicion of carrying illegal weapons on Monday outside a former prison in Gaza City which Israel used to house Palestinian prisoners and Palestinians now use for government offices in their self-rule administration, Reuters said.

Police chased the car, stopped it and detained two men outside a building in Gaza City which Israel used to house Palestinian prisoners and Palestinians now use for government offices in their self-rule administration, Reuters said.

But AFP said only one man armed with a pistol was arrested.

The young man, who was in a car, refused to



Palestinian policemen raid a car belonging to a Palestinian armed with a gun in Gaza City on Monday during a visit there by Yasser Arafat (AFP photo)

stop at a police checkpoint in front of the police headquarters and the police chased him, an AFP correspondent who witnessed the event said.

They arrested him and took his pistol, which he had tucked into his belt. Mr. Arafat had arrived

of the Egyptian governor of Gaza, later used by Israeli authorities.

Workmen were in the process of restoring the villa, where Mr. Arafat is to stay when he returns to the Gaza Strip for good at the end of the week following a trip to Paris.

Symposium on Palestine to be held in Canada

AMMAN (U.N. Information Service) — The 11th United Nations North American NGO symposium on the question of Palestine, on the theme "Palestine: Towards a just and lasting peace — focus on mobilising NGO support for cooperation and development," will be held at the Delta Chelsea Inn in Toronto, Canada, from July 6 to 8.

Convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the purpose of the symposium is to exchange views and perspectives on a wide range of issues pertaining to the reconstruction and nation-building process during the transition period, in light of the declaration of principles and the subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The opening meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, will be addressed by representatives of the government of Canada, the United Nations, the Palestinian Rights Committee, Palestine and the North American Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the question of Palestine. The rest of the day will be devoted to an analysis of the declaration of principles, taking stock of the situation. United Nations involvement and the North American NGO movement's contributions will also be discussed. Representatives from Palestine, Israel, the United States and Canadian governments will participate.

On 7 July, participants will discuss strengthening civil

and social structures and the development of the United Nations system with regard to promoting human rights and development.

In the afternoon on Thursday, there will be special interest meetings and workshops to bring together North American non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with groups and individuals already working in the West and Gaza. Workshop subjects include economic development, health and educational needs, promoting coexistence (citizen-to-citizen diplomacy), defending human rights, working with the media and the experience of Palestinian women in development. A number of experts will make substantive presentations.

"Looking ahead: key issues" will be the theme of

the meeting on Friday.

Since its establishment in 1975, the Palestinian rights committee has attached great importance to the promotion of international assistance for the development of the occupied Palestinian territories. In December 1993, the General Assembly asked that it cooperate with NGOs engaged in promoting support and assistance to the Palestinian people, and to involve additional NGOs in its work. Invitations to attend the seminar have been sent to all governments and to a number of United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and NGOs. A delegation of the Palestinian rights committee will also be present as well as M. Nasser Al Kidwa, permanent observer for Palestine to the United Nations.

Indian 'Rambo' jailed; film industry stunned

BOMBAY (AFP) — Indian movie heart-throb Sunjay Dutt, a suspect in last year's Bombay bomb blasts, was sent to jail by a judge Monday until the completion of the trial on the case.

The judicial order stunned India's film industry, which has at least a dozen unfinished big-budget productions starring Mr. Dutt in lead roles.

Judge G.N. Patel ordered Mr. Dutt, 35, to be returned to prison until the end of the hearings after cancelling bail granted to him on May 5, 1993.

Mr. Patel, rejecting an appeal by Mr. Dutt for a stay of his order, admonished the actor for suggesting in his bail application that his "prosecution was a blot on the administration of justice."

"The majesty of the law lies in the principle that no one is above law," Judge Patel said before sending the stunned actor to jail. Mr. Dutt was, however, allowed food and clothes from home. Defence lawyers consoled

Mr. Dutt, nicknamed India's Rambo, in the packed courtroom, as police led the actor to a van and drove him off to a jailhouse.

Mr. Dutt, reputed to be Bombay's highest-paid movie star, is one of 189 suspects charged in connection with the March 12, 1993, bombings which left more than 300 people dead and nearly 1,000 injured in the city, India's commercial capital.

The action-movie star confessed during interrogation that he has bought an assault rifle from a member of the Bombay underworld, which police say masterminded the explosions.

Police say that Mr. Dutt had originally procured three assault rifles but returned two and destroyed the remaining one during a massive hunt for the Bombay bombers.

Mr. Dutt was arrested in April and detained for 16 days before being given bail. The start of the trial was delayed several times because of procedural problems.

It had been scheduled to open earlier this year but was delayed so the authorities could find a large enough courtroom.

The actor has, however, denied knowing anything about the bombing plot, saying he had bought the banned weapon to protect his family in case of attack during communal riots that raged in Bombay in December 1992 and January 1993.

Mr. Dutt is the son of Sunil Dutt, a former film actor who is a member of parliament from India's ruling Congress (I) Party.

Investigators said they found that several phone calls were made from Mr. Dutt's house to Anees Ibrahim, brother of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, the prime suspect in the blasts, and demanded cancellation of Mr. Dutt's bail.

Dawood Ibrahim is alleged by investigators to control a vast criminal empire in India from a safe haven in the Middle East.

Investigators said Muslim gangsters owing allegiance to Mr. Ibrahim carried out the bombings in revenge for Hindu militant attacks on their community during the riots that erupted after the December 1992 destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

The order sending Mr. Dutt, the most prominent figure among the suspects, back into custody came two weeks after the release of his latest film, "Aatish" (fireworks), in which he stars as a gangster.

Industry captains on Monday described Mr. Dutt's imprisonment as "unexpected" and said it could lead to massive losses in unfinished productions, several of them in the last stages of completion.

"Sunjay is an obedient citizen, but nobody is greater than the law of the land," added prominent producer Sultan Ahmad in Bombay, hub of India's film industry, which annually reels out 150 commercial films.

North says Mukalla stormed

(Continued from page 1)

tre areas, especially the northern suburbs of Mansura and Sheikh Osman.

The two working-class areas, which were still heavily-populated and bustling on Saturday, were almost deserted on Monday after the morning bombardment.

A well fitted with electric pumps at Sheikh Osman, which Red Cross workers had hoped to put into use on Monday to alleviate the city's desperate water shortage, was in flames.

Northern gunners targeted Aden airport, but at least three southern warplanes were able to take off from there on Monday.

The Khormaksar suburb surrounding the airport suffered the heaviest casualty figures during the day's shelling.

Somali refugees at a camp at Bassadin next to the frontline, near the northern suburb of Dar Saad, were also among the wounded, as were residents of the city centre Crater district.

"You cannot imagine how bad the shelling is today. Even animals are treated better than what the north is doing to us," said Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, vice president of the southern break-away state.

Southern officials said northern forces were meeting stiff resistance as they tried to push into the port city in what they said was the fiercest fighting in two months of

war.

Mr. Jifri said the United Nations has asked some Arab and Asian states to join a team of international observers to monitor a truce.

"But we have not been informed yet on any final formation or which country has accepted. The mechanism at the United Nations is very slow," he said.

He said the U.N. has asked Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Mali, Russia, Malaysia, Oman, Jordan, and Indonesia to join the team of 100 to 150 observers.

He said the observers would be headed by Mohammad Said Bereqdar, assistant secretary-general for military affairs at the Arab League, and supervised by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

An Arab League statement on Sunday said Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid has decided to send Mr. Bereqdar and Abdul Wahhab Al Sakit, director of Arab affairs, to Yemen to "follow up Arab League efforts for a ceasefire and clear the way for establishment of peace and security."

Mr. Bereqdar returned from Yemen six weeks ago saying the north had rejected his calls for a ceasefire insisting on total surrender of its southern forces.

Aden's population now has to rely on untreated water from about 70 wells within the city. The lack of clean water has forced bakeries to close, adding to the misery.

Arafat due in Jericho today

(Continued from page 1)

nian authority which will run them.

Mr. Arafat made no statement to reporters, but an aide said: "Abu Ammar is meeting the heads of the departments that run the administration of Gaza to ask them to run them in the best way the institutions, to speed up the building of the state."

It was his first inspection of the headquarters and hundreds of people waited outside for a glimpse of their leader.

Among Gazans there is deep suspicion that the self-rule agreement, rather than leading to the dream of a Palestinian state as Mr. Arafat promised, will make them permanent vassals of Israel. And even supporters worry that he has not changed his autocratic ways.

Concern about opposition crops up repeatedly in Mr. Arafat's remarks.

"I want all the people everywhere to talk about unity and nothing else," Mr. Arafat told a group of visitors on Monday. "I'm not letting people criticise and try to undermine the unity."

His guards also are worried about attacks.

The lukewarm turnout for his arrival Friday is attributed largely to the fact that the ward leaders did not get out their supporters. The arrival did not generate any new graffiti, a standard Gaza barometer.

The strongest basis for supporting the peace treaty is that it will lift people out of their shantytowns. Unemployment runs around 50 per cent with once decent jobs in Israel now strictly curtailed for security reasons.

And so Mr. Arafat keeps attacking the World Bank for the stringent conditions and slow pace in handing over \$180 million for operating costs.

Opposition leaders from factions that did not support the peace process still languish in Israeli jails. Mr. Arafat calls their freedom his key priority.

The presence of 4,000 Jewish settlers also grates, especially those in a settlement whose army protection requires roadblocks on the main road. Mr. Arafat carefully avoids it in his travels.

Japanese town opens Carter Civic Centre

TOKYO (AP) — A remote town in southern Japan opened a civic centre dedicated to Jimmy Carter Sunday, four days before the former U.S. president plans to visit the town with his wife.

About 230 people watched as local and national legislators cut the ribbon on the three-story Jimmy Carter Civic Centre, said Kazuhiko Ogo, a staffer at the centre in Komu on the southernmost main island of Kyushu. Photo and video displays at the centre document the presidency and subsequent peace activities of Mr. Carter, who is in Japan to stay when he returns to Tokyo, 960 kilometres (600 miles) to the northeast, with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who told him Japanese policy would not be affected by the apparent instability of its 3-day-old government, a Kyodo News Service report said.

The new cabinet is led by Socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama but dominated by more conservative Liberal Democratic ministers like Mr. Kono. Mr. Carter plans to go to Komu Thursday, his second visit, to speak at the civic centre's dedication ceremony. He went there in October 1990 to set up a student exchange programme between the town and Georgia, Mr. Carter's home state. That visit resulted from the installment of a bell originally from the town's main Buddhist temple as a peace symbol in the Carter Centre in Atlanta, Georgia. The bell was earmarked in 1942 to be melted down for Japanese ammunition during World War II. Mr. Ogo said, but was spared and became a war souvenir instead, ending up in the possession of a British veteran living in Florida. A group of Japanese in Georgia, Mr. Carter's home state, recently bought the bell and donated it to their state's Carter Centre, Mr. Ogo said.

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Israeli media reported Monday that an Arab also was detained during Mr. Arafat's welcoming speech Friday for a suspected assassin.

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